

MARIAN SHRINES & ITALY

TAILOR-MADE OPTION



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Day 1

ARRIVE IN LISBON

Upon arrival at Lisbon Airport, we will be greeted by our tour escort and driver. Transfer to our hotel, dinner and overnight.

Day 2

LISBON - FATIMA

Breakfast. This morning, we will embark on a panoramic city tour of Lisbon, which will include visits to the Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua, St. Geronimo's Monastery (exterior) and the Belem Tower (exterior). Celebrate Mass. Then, we continue to Fatima. After dinner, possibility to participate in the nightly candlelight procession. Overnight in Fatima.

Day 3

FATIMA

Breakfast. Spend the day in and around Fatima. Our itinerary includes a visit to the Chapel of the Apparitions, the Basilica and the tombs of Francisco, Jacinta, and Sr. Lucia, and the Monument to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In Aljustrel and Valinhos, we will see the two homes of the little shepherds and the site of the first and third visit of the "Angel of Peace". We will also stop at the Parish Church and the cemetery where Francisco and Jacinta were once buried. Celebrate Mass. Drive back to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 4

FATIMA - SALAMANCA

Breakfast. We will be leaving Fatima early in the morning and heading towards Spain. Arrival in Salamanca. We will begin our visit at the Plaza Mayor, the heart of Salamanca and one of the most elegant squares in Spain, surrounded by beautiful Baroque buildings. Next, we will continue to the University of Salamanca, founded in 1218. Finally, we will enjoy a tour of the New and Old Cathedrals, a remarkable complex where Romanesque and Gothic styles coexist harmoniously. Inside, we'll discover intricate carvings, stained glass windows, and centuries of religious art. Mass. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

Day 5

SALAMANCA - AVILA - BURGOS

Breakfast. Departure to Avila. Upon arrival, we will have a guided tour of the city: this city is known for its high walls and has a history that dates back to the Middle Ages. During our visit, we will take a stroll through its narrow streets as we follow the footsteps of St. Theresa of Avila. We will also visit the Monastery of the Incarnation, St. Theresa's cell, and see the relics of St. Theresa and St. John of the Cross. Mass. After the mass, departure to Madrid. Arrival at the hotel. Free afternoon. Dinner and overnight.

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Day 6

MADRID

Breakfast. Walking City Tour of Madrid: Puerta del Sol, Plaza Mayor, Gran Vía, Royal Palace (exterior), Temple of Debod, Almudena Cathedral, San Miguel Market. Free afternoon for leisure. Drive back to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 7

MADRID - LOYOLA - LOURDES

Breakfast. Today, we will be leaving Madrid and heading towards Lourdes. On our way, we will stop in Loyola to visit the birthplace of St. Ignatius and the Shrine. We will celebrate Mass there before continuing our journey to Lourdes. Once we arrive, we will check into the hotel for the evening. After dinner, we will join in the nightly rosary and candlelight procession. Drive back to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 8

LOURDES

Breakfast. Today, we will be spending the day in Lourdes. Our itinerary includes visits to several historical and spiritual sites associated with the visionary child Bernadette. We will start at the Grotto of the Apparitions and proceed on a guided walking tour that will take us to the Basilica of St. Pius X, Boly Mill, the Soubirous family home, the Basilica of the Rosary, the miraculous spring, and the healing baths. Celebrate mass. Later, after dinner, we will join in the nightly rosary and candlelight procession.

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Day 9

LOURDES – MONTSERRAT – BARCELONA

Breakfast. We will depart from Lourdes in the early morning and drive towards the north to reach the hilltop of Montserrat. There, we will visit the black Madonna shrine and Benedictine monastery. We will celebrate Mass and continue our journey to Barcelona, which will take approximately 1.5 hours to reach the hotel. Check-in, dinner, and overnight.

Day 10

BARCELONA

Breakfast. This morning, we will visit the Sagrada Familia from the exterior (ticket not included). Once completed, Gaudi's masterpiece will have 18 towers: 12 dedicated to the apostles, four to the evangelists, one to Jesus and another to Mary. Later, get to know more of the city's treasures, including views of Antonio Gaudi's Mila House (exterior), Batlló House (exterior) and Passeig de Gràcia. Celebrate mass- Spend this afternoon at leisure exploring the city. This evening, gather with your fellow travelers for a dinner celebrating the end of a memorable tour.

Day 11

BARCELONA - VENICE/MESTRE

Breakfast. Transfer to the airport to board the flight to Venice/Mestre. Upon arrival, transfer to Mestre. Arrival at the hotel. Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 12

MESTRE - VENICE

Breakfast. Today, we will travel to Venice by private motorboat. Upon arrival, we will enjoy a guided tour of this enchanting city, including an exterior visit to the Doge's Palace and an exterior visit to St. Mark's Basilica. Celebrate mass. In the afternoon, free time for an optional Gondola ride, or shopping. Then, we will board a private boat back to our bus and drive to our hotel in Mestre. Dinner and overnight

Day 13

FLORENCE – PADUA – MESTRE

Breakfast. We'll leave Mestre and head to Padua, where we'll visit the Basilica of St. Anthony, a renowned pilgrimage site dedicated to one of the Catholic Church's most cherished saints. Celebrate mass. Following our visit, we'll continue our journey to Florence. Upon arrival, we'll check into our hotel, and you'll have the rest of the afternoon to relax or explore Mestre at your leisure.

Day 14

FLORENCE – ASSISI

Breakfast. We'll visit Michelangelo Square for stunning panoramic views of Florence, explore the Duomo (exterior), see the exterior of the Baptistery, and admire the famous Ponte Vecchio. Celebrate mass. Departure to Assisi. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and overnight.

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Day 15

ASSISI – ROME

Breakfast. Today, we will enjoy a full day of touring the hometown of St. Francis. We will start the tour at the Sanctuary of San Damiano, where St. Francis received his divine calling. Next, we will visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, home to the Porziuncola, the tiny chapel where St. Francis founded the Franciscan Order. Continue to the Basilica of St. Francis and St. Clare. Celebrate mass. Departure to Rome. Dinner and overnight.

Day 16

ROME

Breakfast. Early morning, transfer to St. Peter's Square to join pilgrims from all over the world to attend the weekly Papal audience and blessing. Our day continues with a walking tour of Imperial Rome, including an exterior visit to the Colosseum and the Roman Forum, as well as the Arches of Constantine and Titus. Celebrate mass. Following Mass, we will visit one of Rome's major basilicas; St. Mary Major. This basilica is one of the oldest shrines dedicated to the blessed Virgin Mary. Continue to visit the Basilica of St. John Lateran. Continue to the Shrine of the Holy Stairs, believed to be those that led to the praetorium of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem. Later this afternoon, we will visit the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls. Celebrate mass. Return to hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 17

ROME

Breakfast. We will visit St. Peter's Basilica. Enjoy a guided tour of the Basilica, admiring Michelangelo's Pietà and the tombs of St. Peter and Pope John Paul II. Celebrate mass. Continue to the Vatican Museum and walk through the richly decorated galleries and visit the Sistine Chapel. In the afternoon, visit the most beautiful monuments of the Baroque Rome area, including Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, and the Spanish Steps. Enjoy some time for shopping before returning to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 18

RETURN TO USA

Today our pilgrimage comes to an end. We will transfer to the airport for our return flight.



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