



10 DAYS/ 09 NIGHTS:

LISBON/ SANTAREM/ FÁTIMA/ SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA/ VALLADOLID/ BURGOS/
LOURDES/ ZARAGOSA/ MADRID/ SEGÓVIA/ AVILA





ITINERARY:

DAY 1 - LISBON/FATIMA

Arrival at Lisbon. Meet and greet. Short orientation tour of Lisbon before the drive to Fatima. If possible, we celebrate Mass at the Church of the famous Eucharistic Miracle at Santerem. Balance of the day at leisure. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. In the evening, we join the International Rosary Procession.

DAY 2 – FATIMA

This full day is devoted to visiting the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and the birthplaces of Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia to whom the Virgin appeared for the first time on May 13th, 1917. In the evening, we once again join the International Rosary Procession. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 3 - FATIMA/SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Today we depart Fatima, passing by the ancient capital and university city of Coimbra, where Lucia, the last Fatima visionary lived as a cloistered nun. We continue northwards into Spain and on to Santiago de Compostela, one of the most famous shrines in the western world. This is the site of the ancient pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. James. Tradition holds that the Apostle James was cast ashore here preaching for seven years and being responsible for the conversion of Spain before returning to the Holy Land. The Cathedral of 11th to 13th century with its splendor, and the portico are masterworks of Romanesque art. On arrival this afternoon, we enjoy a visit to the Cathedral and the Old City here. While dinner is included at our hotel, the adventurous might consider enjoying the varied delights of the Galatian restaurants in the nearby Old City.

DAY 4 – SANTIAGO/VALLADOLID

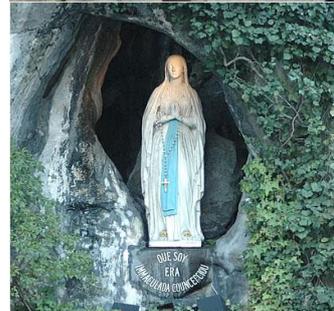
Following our walk to Mass at the Cathedral of Santiago we return to our hotel for breakfast and then head east to Santander along one of the many “Routes of St. James.” We travel through the Spanish countryside and arrive in the thriving city of Valladolid for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 5 – VALLADOLID/BURGOS/LOURDES

This morning, following Mass in Valladolid, we depart for ancient Burgos, once the capital of Spain and the home of the famous El Cid. On arrival we visit the beautiful Gothic Cathedral, the third largest in Spain after Seville and Toledo. Following our visit we continue northeastward along the Basque coast and cross the border into France. In late afternoon, we arrive in Lourdes for dinner and overnight at our hotel. In the evening, we join the Torchlight Marian Procession.

DAY 6 – LOURDES

This day is spent in devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes. We celebrate Mass at the Grotto, with a morning orientation visit to the Shrine and a walking tour of Lourdes, visiting Boly Mill, where St. Bernadette was born, the Cachot, formerly used as a jail, where she lived during the apparitions, and the parish church. This afternoon is free for private devotions, Eucharistic Procession, the Blessing of the Sick or the legendary, healing waters of the miraculous Lourdes spring. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. In the evening, we can once again join the Torchlight Marian Procession.





DAY 7 - LOURDES/ ZARAGOZA

This morning we depart Lourdes and traverse the Pyrenees southward entering northern Spain. We travel south to Zaragoza, the capital of Aragon. On arrival, we visit the city which was founded by the Romans. Its luxuriant vegetation, with its many cascades and grottos make it a miniature Switzerland in the middle of arid upper Aragon. This city was also the birthplace of Goya, whose works grace many of the sites we visit. The number one Marian shrine of Spain, the Pilar Basilica commemorates apparitions of Our Lady the Pillar to St. James in 40 AD, and if possible we celebrate Mass here. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 8 - ZARAGOZA/MADRID

This morning leaving the city and traveling south we reach Madrid. This afternoon we visit highlights of Madrid, capital of Spain, including the Gran Via Plaza de España, the Viaduct, Plaza Major, passing by the Bull Ring, Independence and Cibeles Squares, the University, and the Paseo de la Castellana. Later we make our way to our hotel for dinner and overnight

DAY 9 – SEGOVIA/AVILA

This morning, we drive west to Segovia where St. John of the Cross is buried and where St. Theresa of Jesus established her ninth convent. A UNESCO World Heritage site, we will see the famous aqueduct and other memorable sites. We proceed to Avila, her birthplace, which has kept its medieval austerity and has changed very little since the 11th century. The well-preserved walls with 82 semicircular towers and 9 gates surround the old town. We briefly visit the Cathedral and the Convent of the Incarnation, where St. Teresa lived for three decades and St. John of the Cross, her spiritual director and confessor, lived for the last two years of his life. We celebrate Mass here before returning to Madrid for dinner and overnight at our hotel

DAY 10 - RETURN

We transfer to the airport for our flight home with unforgettable memories to cherish always.

