



ST. JOHN BOSCO  
CATHOLIC CHURCH | EDMONTON, AB

## FRANCE AND IBERIAN PILGRIMAGE

*Barcelona, Lourdes, Leon,  
Santiago De Compostela, Fatima and Lisbon*

*APRIL 16 - 29, 2024*

*Led by Rev. Fr. Raja SDB*



**TOTAL TOUR PACKAGE COST CAD 6300 PER PERSON BASED ON TWIN ROOM  
PAYMENT IS DUE BY JAN 10, 2024**

**(AIR AND LAND TOUR PACKAGE IS NON REFUNDABLE THEREAFTER)**

**AIR TRAVEL IS WITH AIR CANADA AND IN ECONOMY CLASS.**

**LAND TOUR IS THROUGH TRAFALGAR TOURS.**

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# FRANCE AND IBERIAN PILGRIMAGE

APRIL 16, 2024 TO APRIL 29, 2024

FRANCE, PORTUGAL, SPAIN

## DAY 1

### WELCOME TO BARCELONA (2)

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Barcelona - Spain

On this journey, give thanks to God in a city that embraces religious tolerance; a city that celebrates the Glory of God in some of the world's most inspiring churches. You'll have free time to explore Barcelona before joining your Travel Director and fellow travel companions for a Welcome Dinner and orientation of the city to kick-start your pilgrimage.

**MEAL(S):** Welcome Dinner

**HOTEL:** NH Sants Barcelona Hotel

## DAY 2

### EXPLORE BUSTLING BARCELONA

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Barcelona - Spain

Spend the morning exploring the spiritual side of Barcelona in the company of your Local Specialist. We Dive Into Culture for an opportunity to see the city's most celebrated religious monument, La Sagrada Família, stepping through its intricately carved doors, into the creative genius of Gaudí's mind and his breath-taking gift to God (subject to availability). The soaring spires and exquisitely told stories reflected on its outside walls cannot prepare you for the beauty within. The rest of the day is yours to follow in the footsteps of the faithful. You may consider joining an Optional Experience to Montserrat to see the shrine of the Black Madonna, affectionately known in Catalonia as 'La Moreneta', followed by an optional evening of clapping and castanets at an evening Flamenco show. As you watch the twirling skirts and hear the trill of the guitar, you'll feel the energy of this fiery UNESCO-listed tradition adored by the Spanish.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast

## DAY 3

### JOURNEY TO ANCIENT CARCASSONNE

Thursday, April 18, 2024

Carcassonne - France

We journey north, across the Pyrenees and Cathar landscapes bound for the fortified city of Carcassonne. Here we'll join a Local Specialist to explore this ancient town, which you'll learn was once the stronghold of pious believers of the Cathar faith from the 12th century until they were persecuted and expelled by the Inquisition. Visit the Cité, you'll understand why it's said to have inspired Walt Disney for his Castle of Sleeping Beauty, and you'll know that the same double-ring of ramparts and 52 towers you see today are those pilgrims like yourself have seen for many centuries. Learning all about the city's spiritual significance, you'll get to relive all the highlights and share your spellbinding stories this evening as you relax over a traditional dinner featuring some of the hearty cuisine for which the region is particularly well known.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Dinner

**HOTEL:** Hotel Mercure La Cite Carcassonne

## DAY 4

### ONWARDS TO LOURDES (2)

Friday, April 19, 2024

Lourdes - France

A leisurely start to our day sees us journey west to Lourdes, the global centre of the Marian pilgrimage and the holy place where St. Bernadette was said to have had visions of Mary in a cave. Embark on an orientation tour with your Travel Director to gain a real sense of the devotion that pilgrims over the centuries have felt for this place. As the sun sets, you'll have an opportunity to share in this devotion first-hand as you Dive Into Culture for the mesmerising Torchlight Procession, which has moved through the city's streets since 1858. Join believers from all over the world in singing the Ave Maria of Lourdes – a spine-tingling experience that will touch you forever. Moved by this evening's fellowship, you'll want to sample some of the Pyrenees' flavourful culinary specialities, perhaps the local trout and some of the local cheeses paired with the region's celebrated Madiran or Jurançon vintages.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast

**HOTEL:** Mercure Hotel Lourdes Imperial

## DAY 5

### SEE THE WONDRUS SIGHTS IN LOURDES

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Lourdes - France

Start your sightseeing visit of Lourdes' noteworthy religious sites with pilgrims from all over the world. You'll trace the story of St. Bernadette of Lourdes, who witnessed the Marian apparitions of the Immaculate Conception and was canonised in 1933 eventually becoming the patron saint of bodily illness. A Local Specialist will accompany you on a visit to St. Bernadette's Grotto, the shrine and her birthplace, and you'll learn how millions of pilgrims come to this holy place to pray and drink its miraculous water, following the same instruction of our Lady of Lourdes to 'drink at the spring'. You'll feel the spiritual importance of this sacred place as you explore the Domain and contemplate the miracles that have occurred since the Virgin Mary's apparition here.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast

## DAY 6

### OFF TO UNCOVER THE TREASURES OF BURGOS

Sunday, April 21, 2024

Burgos - Spain

Our spiritual interlude with France at its end, we pass through the Basque Country and continue to Burgos, the historic capital of Castile founded as an outpost of the expanding Christian frontier. Meet your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour of its medieval centre, with the highlight being a visit to the UNESCO-listed Cathedral of Saint Mary of Burgos, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Here you'll have time to spend a quiet moment of contemplation and prayer amidst the many extraordinary works of Renaissance artists and see the tomb of El Cid, the celebrated Castilian nobleman and a national hero. Enjoy dinner tonight at a local restaurant, discovering just what a delight Castilian cuisine is. Perhaps you'll sample some regional favourites such as lechazo, succulent lamb, or nibble on tasty pinchos (tapas) with a glass of the local Ribera del Duero to complete the perfect meal.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Dinner

**HOTEL:** Puerta de Hotel Burgos

## DAY 7

### BURGOS TO LEON

Monday, April 22, 2024

Leon - Spain

This morning we arrive in Leon, located on the Bernesga River. Here we visit the Basilica De San Isidoro de Leon, an important Romanesque building. Later we see the Convento de San Marcos and Iglesia San Marcelo.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast

**HOTEL:** Occidental Hotel Leon Alfonso V

## DAY 8

### PILGRIMAGE TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA (2)

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

Santiago de Compostela - Spain

Follow in the footsteps of Saint James, crossing the Spanish 'North' to Santiago de Compostela. Imagine the thousands of pilgrims who have embarked on this spiritual path, as you travel west through the rolling countryside, as they have in devotion for centuries. On arrival, your Travel Director will provide a brief orientation of this famous pilgrimage site after which you'll have some time at leisure to explore on your own, strolling through Alameda Park and admiring views of the Santiago de Compostela Cathedral and the Old Town or getting lost in its historic centre in search of the perfect plaza. Perhaps you'd like to soak up the architecture and atmosphere of the city's winding streets, sample the Pilgrim's menu at the San Franciscan convent-turned hotel and restaurant or simply relax in the tranquil greenery of Alameda Park, with its wonderful views of the cathedral and Old Town to really get a sense of what it must be like to live in this sacred city.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Dinner

**HOTEL:** Santiago Plaza Hotel affiliated by Melia

## DAY 9

### DISCOVER SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

Santiago de Compostela - Spain

Join a Local Specialist this morning for a sightseeing tour which includes a visit to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the final resting place of St. James, the apostle of Jesus Christ. The Romanesque medieval cathedral in the heart of old Santiago also marks the end of the Camino de Santiago and you'll feel the spiritual significance it still has for pilgrims many centuries after it was completed in the 13th century. This afternoon, explore Santiago de Compostela at your leisure, perhaps a more in-depth visit to the UNESCO-listed Old Town with its festive atmosphere and a chance to stop in at one of the cosy coffee shops for a slice of almond-filled heaven, the local Tarta de Santiago. You may also consider joining an Optional Experience to the coastal centre of Rías Baixas where you'll discover the deep fjord-like estuaries of Galicia with our Local Specialist, stopping in O Grove Port and the village of Cambados, before enjoying a refreshing boat trip to sample mussels and Ribeiro wine fresh from the local farms, leaving some space for dinner later at your hotel.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 10

### VENTURE TO FATIMA (2)

Thursday, April 25, 2024

Fatima - Portugal

Our trip through Spain at its end, we continue our spiritual journey south to Portugal, to the Catholic pilgrimage site of Fátima. Walk the path followed by millions of pilgrims to the shrine where three young shepherds famously saw the apparition of the Virgin Mary. Your orientation tour will give you an overview of the history and religious significance of this holy place and you'll watch how devotees pray for health, happiness and repentance. This evening, peace will fill your heart as you join worshippers from all over the world reciting the Rosary in the hushed and magnificent surrounds of the famous Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Dinner

**HOTEL:** Fatima Hotel

## DAY 11

### FATIMA YOUR WAY

Friday, April 26, 2024

Fatima - Portugal

We journey to the tiny village of Aljustrel, where the three shepherds once lived, to see their humble home which stands to this day. You'll have time to witness the power of faith in Fátima at your leisure or consider joining an Optional Experience to Nazaré and Batalha, with its impressive Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitória na Batalha built in the 15th century to pay homage to the Portuguese victory at the Battle of Aljubarrota and thank the Virgin Mary for her intervention in their battle with the Castilians. This beautiful Gothic-turned-Manueline honey-hued structure was home to Portugal's first stained-glass workshop, and you'll see the radiant beauty all around you as you explore further. See the statue of Nuno Álvares Pereira on his horse, learning how this military commander who was credited with winning this battle and keeping Portugal independent. You'll leave with a deep understanding of the events leading up to its construction and know that through your visit, you help to support its preservation for years to come.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast

## DAY 12

### CONTINUE TO COLOURFUL LISBON

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Lisbon - Portugal

A short journey this morning takes us to Batalha where a Local Specialist takes us inside the Monastery of Santa Maria de Vitoria. Later, we arrive in the capital city of Lisbon. You'll meet a Local Specialist who will accompany us on a drive through the lush avenues of the Portuguese capital, past the black and white mosaic pavements, bound for Belém, a district on the River Tejo. You'll see the Monument to the Discoveries and the Belém Tower before we Dive Into Culture and visit the exquisite 16th-century Hieronymite Monastery. The resident monks of the Order of Saint Jerome were tasked to give guidance to sailors and pray for the soul of King Manuel I and beyond its spiritual significance, you'll be mesmerised by its beauty.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast

**HOTEL:** Smy Hotel Lisbon

## **DAY 13**

### **LISBON AT LEISURE**

Sunday, April 28, 2024

Lisbon - Portugal

Today is a full day to explore the city further. In the evening, we enjoy an exclusive Be My Guest (subject to availability) experience and Connect With Locals at their family home in Lisbon's Terras Vedras for a Farewell Dinner featuring some of the delicious local delicacies for dessert, along with the chance to sample the local wine in the charming winery dating back to 1858. You'll be so captivated by the whole experience, you'll want to take special note of all the favourite local recipes to try them out back home with friends and family.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast, Farewell Dinner

## **DAY 14**

### **FAREWELL LISBON**

Monday, April 29, 2024

Lisbon - Portugal

Say farewell to newfound friends after a memorable spiritual journey as we are transferred to the airport for our onwards journey.

**MEAL(S):** Breakfast



## **Sightseeing Highlights**

- **Visit** La Sagrada Família in Barcelona, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Cite in Carcassonne, Burgos Cathedral, St. James Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima, the Monastery of Santa Maria Vitoria in Batalha and the Hieronymites Monastery in Lisbon
- **Explore** Barcelona, Carcassonne, Lourdes, Burgos, Santiago de Compostela, Batalha and Lisbon with a Local Specialist

## **What's included.**

### **Dining Highlights**

- 13 breakfasts & 7 dinners

### **First class travel Highlights**

- Audio Headsets for flexible sightseeing
- Luxury air-conditioned coach with Wi-Fi in most countries or alternative transportation (such as rail journeys)
- Hotel portorage of 1 bag per person.
- An expert Travel Director and separate Driver.
- Hotel tips, restaurant tips for included meals, and local taxes.
- A group airport transfer on the first and last day of your guided holiday.
- Cherry-picked hotels, all tried and trusted (Hotels listed to be used as a guide only and are subject to availability. If the quoted hotel is unavailable, we will secure another hotel in the same category).
- Gratuities to Travel Director, Coach Drivers and Local Specialists.

## **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- No early check in/late checkout included.
- Travel insurance, visas and items of a personal nature

EDMONTON-TORONTO-BARCELONA -15 APRIL 2024 DEPARTURES TO ARRIVE BARCELONA ON 16 APRIL 2024.

LISBON – TORONTO-EDMONTON - 29 APRIL 2024 DEPARTURES TO ARRIVE SAME DAY.

1. AC 168 - 15APR YEGYYZ - 1135A 526P \* E MO 1
2. AC 820 - 15APR YYZBCN - 805P 1000A+\* E MO/TU 1
3. AC 811 - 29APR LISYYZ - 1250P 415P \* E MO 2
4. AC 173 - 29APR YYZYEG - 655P 918P \* E MO 2

**TOUR PACKAGE COST: CAD 6300 PER PERSON BASED ON TWIN ROOM  
FOR SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT – ADD CAD 1220 TO THE ABOVE RATES.**

#### **PAYMENT GUIDELINES**

**FULL PAYMENT IS DUE BY JAN 10, 2024**

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