

ROME, FATIMA, LOURDES *and* SPAIN



DAY 1: NEW YORK/ROME

We depart on an international overnight flight to Rome. Dinner and breakfast are served on board.

DAY 2: ROME

Upon arrival in Rome, we are greeted by our tour guide, and next board our deluxe motorcoach for transfer to our hotel. The balance of the day is at leisure to rest or explore the city on our own. Dinner and overnight in Rome. (D)

DAY 3: ROME

After breakfast we depart for the Vatican City, where we gather with pilgrims from around the world to attend a Papal Audience (if available). In the afternoon, we visit the Vatican Museums, home to one of the world's greatest art collections, and Michelangelo's breathtaking Sistine Chapel followed by a tour of St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in Christendom, built over his tomb. We have the remainder of the day to sample Rome's many delights on our own. Dinner and overnight in Rome. (B/D)

DAY 4: ROME

Today we enjoy a full day tour of Rome. The highlights include the Catacombs, the Appian Way, Capitoline Hill, Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, the Colosseum, the Roman Forum, the Arch of Constantine, and the Circus Maximus. We visit the three major basilicas of Rome: the Basilica of St. Mary Major, one of the oldest shrines dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary and built on the site where the Virgin Mary appeared in a dream of pope Liberius; the Basilica of St. John in Lateran, the former residence of the popes prior to their return to Rome in 1377; the Holy Stairs, which is believed to be a staircase from Pilate's palace in Jerusalem that Jesus climbed when he was condemned to death and brought to Rome by St. Helena in the 4th century. Time permitting, we may climb these stairs on our knees in memory of Christ's Passion. Continue to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Wall built over his tomb. Dinner and overnight in Rome. (B/D)

DAY 5: ROME/FATIMA

After breakfast we transfer to Rome airport for our flight to Lisbon. Upon arrival in Lisbon, we are greeted by our tour guide, and next board our deluxe motorcoach for transfer to Fatima. Dinner and overnight in Fatima. (B/D)

DAY 6: FATIMA

After breakfast we discover the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. We begin with a visit to the pristine Basilica which contains the tombs of St. Jacinta, St. Francisco and Sister Lucia. Continue to the Little Chapel of the

Apparitions where Our Lady first appeared to the three shepherd children on May 13, 1917. We celebrate mass here and light a candle. The balance of the day at leisure for private reflection, prayer, and meditation. Join the Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation available each day at the Basilica. In the evening once again participate in the Rosery and the Candlelight Procession (if available). Dinner and overnight in Fatima. (B/D)

DAY 7: FATIMA

In the morning we travel to the hamlet of Aljustrel, the birthplace of the "three little shepherds of Fatima", Lucia dos Santos, Francisco & Jacinta Marto. Our Blessed Lady appeared to three shepherd children from May 13th until October 13th 1917 with her message of love and call to conversion. Then we continue to Valinhos where Our Lady appeared on August 19, 1917 after the children's release from the prison. We visit the church where they were baptized and the local cemetery. We also stop at the sites where the Angel of Peace appeared to the children in 1916 advising them of the future apparitions of the Virgin Mary. Afternoon at leisure for private meditation, prayers, and reflection. After dinner once again experience the Rosary and the Candlelight Procession (if available). Dinner and overnight in Fatima. (B/D)

DAY 8: FATIMA/BURGOS

After breakfast we depart Fatima for Spain driving along the rustic beautiful Portuguese countryside, before crossing the border into Spain. We continue to the city of Burgos, founded in the 9th century. Burgos is also one of the larger cities on the route of the Camino de Santiago, an ancient pilgrim route in Northern Spain. We will have an orientation tour of the city highlighted by a view of the Burgos Castle and visit to the imposing magnificent limestone gothic Burgos Cathedral, one of Spain's largest and most beautiful churches. Dinner and overnight in Burgos. (B/D)

DAY 9: BURGOS/LOURDES

In the morning we head for Lourdes, enjoying the scenic ride through the rugged Pyrenees Mountains and travel into neighboring France. We arrive in the afternoon to visit the beloved Shrine of Lourdes, where in 1858 at the Grotto of Massabielle Our Lady appeared to the 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous calling herself the "Immaculate Conception." Check into our hotel and after dinner we are invited to take part in the evening Torchlight Procession also called Marian Procession (if available). Dinner and overnight in Lourdes. (B/D)

DAY 10: LOURDES

After breakfast we begin our tour with a visit to the Grotto de Massabielle where in 1858 the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous. A statue of the Virgin Mary is in a niche under the Basilica of the Rosery and the Basilica of Immaculate Conception. Then, we visit the Bernadette Museum and continue to walk in her footsteps visiting the Boly Mills, her birthplace; the "Cachot", a small house where she lived with her family; the Hospice where she was educated by the Sisters of Nevers and where she took First Communion; the Parish Church where she was baptized; the Old Presbytery where she meet Abbe Peyramale, a Catholic priest in the town of Lourdes in France during the apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes; Bartres where she lived twice as a very young child and teenager; and the Maison Paternelle, known as the Moulin Lacade, home to Bernadette's parents after the apparitions. The balance of the day is at leisure. You may attend the musical dedicated to the life of

Bernadette called "Bernadette of Lourdes" (subject to availability and at additional cost). You may attend the "Blessing of the Sick" or light candles for your loved ones at the Chapel of Lights. After dinner participate in the Torchlight Procession also called Marian Procession (if available). Dinner and overnight in Lourdes. (B/D)

DAY 11: LOURDES/ZARAGOZA

After breakfast we depart Lourdes for Zaragoza to visit the Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar where Our Blessed Virgin Mary miraculously appeared to St. James before her Assumption. St. James was unhappy that he could not convert people to Christianity, and as he was praying, Virgin Mary appeared on a pillar accompanied by angels and carrying the Child Jesus on her arm. She assured St. James he would not fail, gave him the pillar and told him to build a chapel on the spot where she left the pillar and for him to build an image of her. St. James was successful in bring Christianity to Spain. Zaragoza is one of Spain's important Marian Shrines and October 12th is Our Lady of Pillar's feast day. St. John Paul II affirmed Our Lady of Pillar's role as "Mother of the Hispanic People". Dinner and overnight in Zaragoza. (B/D)

DAY 12: ZARAGOZA/BARCELONA

In the morning we travel to Barcelona and check into our hotel. The afternoon city tour introduces us to the cosmopolitan capital of Catalonia. We view the Passeig de Garcia, famous for the two houses of Antoni Gaudi, go to the Gothic Quarter and walk around the Cathedral, La Sagrada Familia, and stop at Montjuic Hill to enjoy the great views and sights of the city. Dinner and overnight in Barcelona. (B/D)

DAY 13: BARCELONA

Today we visit Montserrat. The spirit of Montserrat is a unique blend of the mountain, the sanctuary, and the life of monasticism. Around the sanctuary we find many different banners and emblems representing various religious, cultural, social, financial, and even sporting organizations. Our spectacular day of pilgrimage begins with a visit and Mass in the Basilica, the construction of which began in the 16th century, and a viewing of the beautiful Holy Image of Our Lady of Montserrat, known affectionately as the "Black Madonna." We then board the Santa Cova funicular railway and after a short ride, enjoy a walk down the sacred path passing modernist sculptures of the Mysteries of the Rosary (all worked on by Llimona and Gaudi among others). Almost hanging from the rock's edge at the end of the route is the Chapel where the image of Our Lady of Montserrat was found by young shepherds in the 13th century after seeing a bright light which led them to the grotto. We take time here at the Holy Cave for prayer and reflection before taking the funicular railway back up to the Sanctuary. Before lunch we take our place among the privileged to hear the heavenly sounds of the Montserrat Boys Choir (The Escolania), one of the oldest and most renowned in Europe. We return to Barcelona in the late afternoon. Dinner and overnight in Barcelona. (B/D)

DAY 14: BARCELONA/NEW YORK

After breakfast we transfer to Barcelona airport for our flight back home arriving the same day. (B)

NOTE: Papal Audience is possible only on Wednesdays and is subject of confirmation. It can be cancelled without prior notice, depends on The Pope's schedule.