



Watch your faith come alive during this absorbing time of pilgrimage beginning with a reflective stay in Lourdes, the City of Mary. Journey on through Mountainous villages and holy shrines, weaving a pilgrim trail through the glorious Spanish & French countryside and the sacred villages of our faith.

11
DAYS

from (AUD)

\$4,890

air inclusive from

\$6,990

20
MEALSDAILY
MASSES

Lourdes (3 Nights) • Manresa • Montserrat (1) • Barcelona (1) • Lyon • Ars • Paray-le-Monial (2) • Taizé Community • Nevers • Chartres (1) • Lisieux • Mont-Saint-Michel (2) • Rouen • Finish Paris

pilgrim highlights

- + Begin perfectly with a full 3 Night stay in Lourdes and be touched by the spiritual atmosphere of Our Lady that abounds.
- + Be among the thousands of rejoicing pilgrims flowing towards the Lourdes Sanctuary during the evening torchlight spectacle.
- + Relish a two-night stay in Paray Le Monial and pray in the Chapel of the Apparitions where Jesus exposed His Sacred Heart to St Margaret Mary Alacoque.
- + Gaze upon the incorrupt body of St Bernadette during a private Mass in the town of Nevers where she joined the Sisters of Charity.
- + Be awe-struck in Chartres as you enter the magnificent 13th century Cathedral and marvel at the stained-glass majesty during our guided exploration.
- + Pray in Lisieux before the statue of the Virgin Mary that smiled at the 10-year-old Thérèse before she was immediately cured of a severe illness.
- + Come to breathtaking Mont-Saint-Michel and be inspired by the prayerful beauty of the great Abbey built in honour of St Michael the Archangel.

SYMBOLS **Mass Setting:** Preferred site (B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner
 ⓘ = Time Out - Planned site for extended opportunity for prayer & reflection

DAY 1: ARRIVE LOURDES

Welcome to Lourdes, the small town where Our Lady first appeared to St Bernadette in 1858.

Lourdes overnight (D)

DAY 2: LOURDES

We celebrate an **International Mass** this morning with pilgrims worldwide in the immense Underground Basilica of Pius X (schedule permitting) followed by a visit to the little village of **Bartres**, and the farm where St Bernadette was nursed and later returned in adolescence to help her foster mother. We will visit the **Sheepfold** ⓘ and the **Parish Church** where she spent so many hours in prayer. Optional Blessed Sacrament Procession and evening candlelight procession.

Mass Setting: *International Mass at Lourdes. Lourdes overnight (BD)*

DAY 3: LOURDES

This morning we will celebrate a group **Mass at the Grotto** before meeting our guide for a **walking tour of Lourdes** including the **Sanctuary area: Upper & Lower Basilicas, the Grotto, and the Baths** where hundreds of miraculous cures have taken place. Continue our visit of the main sites associated with St Bernadette including the **Boly Mill** where she was born in 1844, the **original parish church** and the **Cachot (prison)** where the family was forced to live due to misfortune during the time of the apparitions.

Free time this afternoon for a visit and prayers for the sick at the miraculous **Baths** where the water has continued to flow since 1858. ⓘ Pilgrims may choose to submerge themselves in the healing waters.

Mass Setting: *Lourdes Grotto. Lourdes overnight (BD)*

DAY 4: LOURDES TO MONTSERRAT (VIA MANRESA)

We farewell Lourdes and continue south into Spain and onto the town of **Manresa** for Mass where St Ignatius came on retreat for 11 months

between 1522 and 1523 ⓘ and pray in the actual cave where his life and spirituality developed. We then arrive into stunning **Montserrat**. The stunning mountaintop shrine is home to a 12th century miraculous statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, lovingly known as the “**Black Madonna**”, discovered in the **Santa Cova** or Holy Cave.

Time permitting, before dinner we will take the opportunity to join the Benedictine monks in the Basilica for **evening Vespers**.

Mass Setting: *Manresa Cave. Montserrat overnight (BD)*

DAY 5: MONTSERRAT & BARCELONA

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**.”

Board the **Santa Cova** funicular railway and after a short ride, we come to the **Chapel** where the image of Our Lady of Montserrat was found by young shepherds in the 13th century. We take time here at the **Holy Cave** for prayer and reflection.

Before lunch, we will 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.

In the afternoon we will travel to **Barcelona**, a city synonymous with art, culture and faith. See Antonio Gaudi’s inspiring **La Sagrada Familia Basilica**, the most visited landmark in Barcelona.

Mass Setting: *Montserrat Basilica. Barcelona overnight (BD)*

DAY 6: LYON • ARS • PARAY-LE-MONIAL

Fly to **Lyon** in France this morning to visit the stunning **Fourviere Basilica**, and admire a wonderful view over the entire city of Lyon.

Journey north to nearby **Ars**, the little village where **St John Vianney** known as the Cure of Ars was based and to where pilgrims from all over Europe flocked to see him. View his incorrupt



body and celebrate our group Mass here. From here we continue north to **Paray-le-Monial**, the place where St Margaret Mary Alacoque experienced visions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the 17th century.

Mass Setting: *Ars Basilica.*

Paray-le-Monial overnight (BD)

"The saints, Mary, everything comes alive. It's like a little retreat. You put your life on hold and into God's arms and His presence."

— **Jenny Chitti**

DAY 7: PARAY-LE-MONIAL & TAIZE

After breakfast we commence our time here with Mass in the **Chapel of Apparitions**, located in the Monastery of the Visitation and where most of the sacred heart apparitions took place.

We then set off for **Taize**, **T** the tiny hillside community in which young people from all over the world are drawn. We join with the community for **midday prayer**, which is sung beautifully in the large candlelit church.

Returning to **Paray-le-Monial**, we commence our guided visit featuring the **relics of St Margaret Mary**. Other highlights include the **Chapel of St Claude** in honour of St Margaret Mary's Spiritual Director and the **Basilica of Sacre Coeur**.

Mass Setting: *Chapel of Apparitions.*

Paray-le-Monial overnight (BD)

DAY 8: VIA NEVERS TO CHARTRES

We journey by coach to the town of **Nevers** nestled within the picturesque Loire Valley. Here we will visit the **Convent of St Gildard** where **St Bernadette's incorrupt body** reposes and may be viewed. After she was blessed with the 18 apparitions of the Virgin Mary at Lourdes, St Bernadette retired to Nevers where she died at the age of only 35.

T Our pilgrimage takes us on to the great Cathedral city of **Chartres** where we enter inside the magnificent 13th century **Chartres Cathedral**, a medieval architectural wonder. Gaze upon stained glass majesty with more than five thousand figures depicting biblical stories and the lives of the saints, presenting to every pilgrim a vision of the heavenly city that awaits us.

Mass Setting: *Nevers Convent Chapel.*

Chartres overnight (BD)

DAY 9: CHARTRES • LISIEUX • MONT-SAINT-MICHEL

Journey west today to **Lisieux**, one of the world's favourite pilgrimage sites and home to St Therese, the 'Little Flower', whom Pope Pius X called 'the greatest saint of modern times'.

On arrival we enjoy a pilgrimage tour of Lisieux visiting the family home of **Les Buissonnets**, the **Carmelite Convent Chapel** with its **reliquary of the saint** and **St Therese's Basilica**. **T**

Departing Lisieux we journey west to Normandy and the lovely island of **Mont-Saint-Michel**. From the Middle Ages people have flocked to the abbey and were so struck by its beauty that they called this place "The Wonder Island". Today it continues to be a major cultural and pilgrimage centre.

Mass Setting: *Carmelite Chapel.*

Mont-Saint-Michel overnight (BD)

DAY 10: MONT-SAINT-MICHEL

A highlight of our visit here will be the **Benedictine Abbey**, which during the French Revolution was turned into a prison. We plan to join the community here for an inspiring chanted Mass. During our tour we will also see the **Chapelle de Notre Dame sous Terre** (Underground Chapel of Our Lady). It was built in the late 10th century in the very place that St Aubert erected the oratory in the 8th century. Enjoy some free time this afternoon.

Mass Setting: *Benedictine Abbey.*

Mont-Saint-Michel overnight (BD)

DAY 11: VIA ROUEN • DEPART PARIS

Depart Mont-Saint-Michel this morning and journey east to visit **Rouen** where **Joan of Arc** was burnt at the stake in the marketplace on 30 May 1431. Continue east to **Paris** for our homebound or ongoing flights. (B)

TOUR DETAILS

2020 DATES & PRICES

TOUR CODE	BEGINS: Lourdes	ENDS: Paris	TWIN SHARE Tour Only	
GF0120 OB	Mon 18 May	28 May	\$4,990	+ AIRFARE OPTION
GF0220 OB	Fri 18 Sep	28 Sep	\$4,990	+ AIRFARE OPTION
GF0320	Sat 17 Oct	27 Oct	\$4,890	+ AIRFARE OPTION

SINGLE ROOM \$1,230 Supplement	PREPAID TIPPING \$14 per person/per day
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2021 DATES & PRICES*

GF0121	Mon 17 May	27 May	\$5,190	+ AIRFARE OPTION
GF0221	Fri 17 Sep	27 Sep	\$5,190	+ AIRFARE OPTION
GF0321	Sun 17 Oct	27 Oct	\$5,090	+ AIRFARE OPTION

SINGLE ROOM \$1,290 Supplement	PREPAID TIPPING \$14 per person/per day
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AIR & TOUR PRICES FROM: \$6,990 per person. See harvestjourneys.com for full details. *indicative prices

OB = Oberammergau 2020 optional add-on available

Full list of **INCLUSIONS** see page 46

Priest travels free

PARISH PLAN

See page 10/11 for more details

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Sojourn FOR THE Soul

Words by Joy Adan

Inside a small, unassuming chapel on Rue de la Visitation in Paray-le-Monial about 20 wooden pews face a simple stone altar and a colourfully painted mural depicting the Apparition of Christ to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque. Sitting on one of these pews, Irma De Guzman discovers a profound connection between this French town and her home in Melbourne, Australia.



Lisieux

"This is where St Margaret Mary Alacoque had a vision of the Sacred Heart. I didn't know that place before I went there, but learning that was one of the most striking moments during our pilgrimage," she says. Irma works in a school founded by the sisters and brothers of the Sacred Heart. "We always celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart in June. To think that feast originated in that place because of that vision, was really powerful for me. It was like discovering my roots. It was incredibly profound."

Sharing the journey with such a diverse pilgrim group made Irma's journey through France even more special. "We had such a mix of travellers - some travelling alone, some young pilgrims, some couples who were retired; all people with different cultural backgrounds and lifestyles," Irma describes. "It was like they were sharing their souls when they shared their stories and their faith. It was so enriching for everybody."

In Lourdes, Irma was swept away by the strident drumbeat of military bands as 12,000 soldiers from over 40 countries descended on the pilgrimage site for the 61st Pèlerinage Militaire International. "It was truly amazing," she says, recalling the excitement and energy that filled the town.

It was like discovering my roots. It was incredibly profound.

"Despite the fact that there were so many people, it was still a very solemn experience. We heard Mass in English, and there were Bishops from all the different military groups, and their homilies were very moving. And even though there was noise outside, the moment you step inside the Basilica, it was silent and solemn."

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Irma took the opportunity during one afternoon in Lourdes to visit the miraculous Baths. "What an experience - it was unforgettable, totally amazing. It was, honestly, indescribable," she says, recalling the awe she felt. "You don't expect it while you're waiting in line, but the experience is totally beautiful. My whole body and my head were submerged and my hair is quite long, but when I got out my hair was dry and I had to think, 'Did that just happen?' It was such an impossible, out of this world experience. It will stay with me forever."

So too, will her connection with Mary through the Rosary. "On the pilgrimage, we prayed the Rosary every day, and I've continued that," Irma says. "When we pray the Rosary we pray for the whole world, for peace in the world; it brings us together as part of the whole Catholic community. There are so many experiences I've had, where people have come to me with desperate or impossible situations and I've promised to pray for them, and then I get their feedback that something is fixed or healed, or things have improved. I can categorically say that the power of prayer is real."

Irma in Lourdes



Chapel of Apparitions, Paray le Monial

