

World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Lisbon

“Mary arose and went with haste” (Luke 1:39)

Suggested Pilgrimage #4 (13 nights/15 days)

Day 1: Monday

Our journey begins as we depart the USA on an overnight flight to Madrid, Spain

Day 2: Tuesday: Arrival in Spain

(D)

Arrival into Madrid and meet our Faith Journeys Tour Manager who will assist us to the awaiting motorcoach and transfer to the city. Although we will find Madrid a modern city, we can't help but be captivated by its rich history, art and spirit. After arriving at our hotel, a little rest and relaxation might be in order. Or, for the more adventurous and energetic, suggested sights and walking trails can be provided upon request.

Day 3: Wednesday: Madrid

(B)

Some contend that the original name of Madrid was "Ursaria" ("land of bears") due to the high number of these animals found in the adjacent forests, which, together with the strawberry tree (madroño), have been emblems of the city from ancient times. We begin our day by visiting many of its remarkable landmarks including the Prado Museum which hosts one of the finest art collections in the world including important Spanish and Flemish paintings, classical statues purchased from Italy, medieval religious treasures and even some Romanesque frescoes. We will also explore Buen Retiro Park, founded in 1631, and the immense Royal Palace of Madrid. Afternoon at leisure with dinner under your own arrangements before returning to the hotel for overnight.

Day 4: Thursday: Toledo

(B,D)

Following breakfast, we'll check-out of the hotel and travel south to Toledo. "Holy Toledo" isn't just a popular expression! This historic city and notable place of pilgrimage is about 42 miles from Madrid. We'll begin our journey early this morning because we won't want to miss anything in this ancient capital that so inspired El Greco in the 16th century and that has remained relatively unchanged since his time. Old churches and houses fill the city where you can still stroll through streets barely wide enough for a man and his donkey. The great monuments left by the three monotheistic religions are most impressive although all are dominated by the Toledo Cathedral which is ranked among the greatest Gothic structures of Europe. Inside the cathedral are many important masterpieces including a spectacular baroque high altar and two paintings by El Greco. Other fascinating churches in Toledo include the Mezquita del Cristo de la Luz (Mosque of Christ of the Light), dated from the 10th century and the only surviving mosque in Toledo (out of ten), and the Church of San Román which has been deconsecrated and now houses the Museo de Arte Visigótico, a collection of Visigothic artifacts includes statuary, illuminated manuscripts, and gold and silver treasures. It is worth noting that "Holy Toledo" is the capital of the Catholic Church in Spain. We will return to Madrid for dinner and overnight.

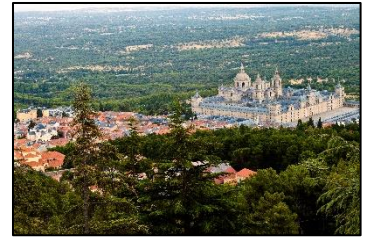
Day 5: Friday: El Escorial to Ávila

(B,D)

This morning we'll check-out and travel about northwest to a striking memorial to those who died in the Spanish Civil War in the nearby Valley of the Fallen, where we will see a basilica built into the mountain which contains the tombs of many soldiers from both sides of the conflict. We then continue to El Escorial, situated at the foot of Mt. Abantos in the Sierra de



Guadarrama, a semi-forested, wind-swept place that owes its name to nearby piles of slag or tailings (scoria) from old iron mines. El Escorial, built by King Philip II to mark his victory over the French at San-Quentin in 1557, is not only a historical residence of the King (and famous burial site for most of the Spanish kings for the last five centuries) but also functions as a monastery, royal palace, museum, and school. The monastery contains important works of art by famous artists like El Greco and Velazquez, and in the Capitulary and the Sacristy Rooms, paintings such as Joseph's Coat by Velázquez, The Last Supper by Titian, or The Adoration of the Sacred Host by Charles II by Claudio Coello are on display. In the afternoon we continue to Ávila and visit the fortified 12th-century Basilica of San Vicente, one of the most outstanding works of Romanesque architecture. Ávila was the birthplace of St. Teresa de Jesus, one of the great mystics of the Catholic Church. Admire the convent, which opened in 1636 on her birthplace and the baroque façade and Latin Cross plan. We'll check-in to the hotel in Ávila for dinner and overnight.



Day 6: Saturday: Ávila to Santiago de Compostela (B,D)

Following breakfast at the hotel, we check-out and transfer to Santiago de Compostela. We will stop outside of the city and have the opportunity to walk part of the Way of St. James before entering the city. We will then check-in to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 7: Sunday: Santiago de Compostela (B,D)

Know this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience (James 1:3).

Today we will make our way down the narrow streets of the city to the shrine of St. James in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela known in English as the Way of St. James and in Spanish as the Camino de Santiago. The cathedral, built on the spot where the remains of the Apostle James were said to have been found, borders the main plaza of the old and well-preserved city. We'll enjoy a 4-hour guided tour of the city. The remainder of the day is at leisure to relax or visit the city. We might explore sites near the cathedral including the Praza do Obradoiro, the expansive square named after the workshops set up during the construction of the cathedral in the 11th century, the Colexio de San Xerome, witness to Santiago's status as a seat of learning since the late middle ages, or the Paxo de Raxoi – an elegant neoclassical palace and former seminary which today houses the regional government of Galicia. On the north side of the square is the Hostal de los Reyes Católicos, a Renaissance building commissioned by Isabella and Ferdinand in 1499 as a pilgrims' sanctuary. At the end of the day, we will enjoy a dinner and our final overnight stay in Spain.



Day 8: Monday: Fatima & Lisbon (B,D)

Today we depart south, along the Atlantic Ocean to Fatima, Portugal to Celebrate Mass. Fatima is home to one of the most well-known Marian shrines in the world, the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. Each year as many as 4 million people visit here because they are drawn by the reports of three local shepherd children who in 1917 saw the Virgin Mary. Visit the Tombs of Francisco and Jacinta, as well as other sites related to the appearances of Mary. We will take time for our own devotions and prayers at the Hungarian Stations of the Cross consisting of fourteen small chapels along walkways leading to a marble monument of Christ on the cross. Continue to Lisbon for dinner as a group and overnight.



Day 9: Tuesday: World Youth Day Opening Mass (B, WYD Meals)

Half-day guided tour of the city that is rich in art, architecture, spirit, and home to many saints. Visit St. Anthony's Church, known in Portugal as a marriage saint, because legend has him as a conciliator of couples. Afternoon and evening participation in the opening of the World Youth Day in Lisbon.



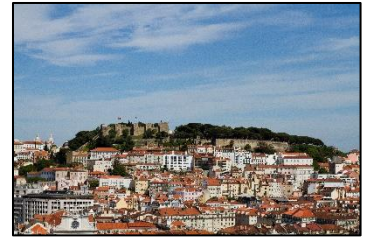
Day 10: Wednesday: World Youth Day (B, WYD Meals)

Morning Catechesis and World Youth Day activities. WYD participants, organized by language groups, will have catechesis sessions with bishops from all over the world. The

sessions will take place in church, school, auditoriums, and sports centers in Lisbon. Afternoon gathering for all pilgrims from the USA.

Day 11: Thursday: World Youth Day & Arrival of Pope Francis (B, WYD Meals)

Morning Catechesis and World Youth Day activities. WYD participants, organized by language groups, will have catechesis sessions with bishops from all over the world. The sessions will take place in church, school, auditoriums, and sports centers in Lisbon. Arrival of Pope Francis and Welcoming Mass.



Day 12: Friday: World Youth Day & Stations of the Cross (B, WYD Meals)

Morning Catechesis and World Youth Day activities. WYD participants, organized by language groups, will have catechesis sessions with bishops from all over the world. The sessions will take place in church, school, auditoriums, and sports centers in Lisbon. Take part in the Stations of the Cross in the afternoon.



Day 13: Saturday: World Youth Day & Overnight Vigil (B, WYD Meals)

Young people will arrive at the site for the Overnight Vigil. The pope will arrive and Eucharistic adoration will begin. An address is made by the Holy Father. Overnight Vigil.

Day 14: Sunday: World Youth Day, Papal Mass (WYD Meals, D)

Pope Francis will concelebrate Mass with thousands of bishops and priests, and he will address the young people, to send them out to the world to witness to their faith, as the Lord did with His Apostles. At the end of the Mass, the Holy Father will announce the place where the next edition of World Youth Day will be held. Culmination of World Youth Day 2023. Return to Lisbon. Enjoy a dinner as a group.



Day 15: Monday: Depart for Home (B)

Following breakfast, transfer to the airport for the return flight home. With renewed faith in Christ and the Church, we share our gifts and strengths in our local community.

This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable

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