

# World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Lisbon

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

Suggested Pilgrimage #3 (12 nights/14 days)

### Day 1: Tuesday

Our journey begins as we depart the USA on an overnight flight to Toulouse, France

### Day 2: Wednesday: Arrival in France

(D)

Arrival into Toulouse, France and meet our Faith Journeys Tour Manager who will assist us to the awaiting motorcoach and transfer to the foothills of the Pyrenees mountains to picturesque Lourdes, site of the largest Catholic pilgrimage destination in France. It is here that St. Bernadette, to whom Our Lady appeared in 1858 near the Grotto of Massabielle, was born. Check-in to the hotel for dinner and overnight. The more adventurous can attend the evening Torchlight Procession at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

### Day 3: Thursday: Lourdes

(B,D)

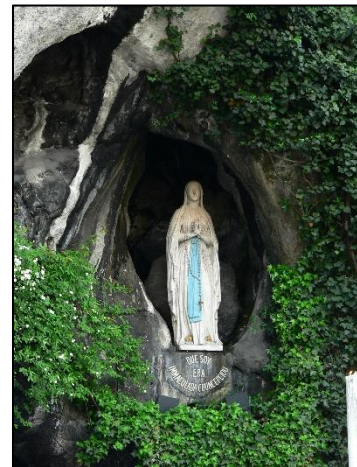
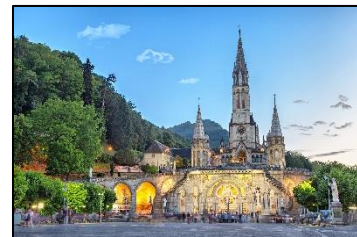
*I am the Immaculate Conception (Que soi era immaculada concepcion) (Mary to Bernadette).*

When Bernadette Soubirous was 14-years of age and out gathering firewood with her sister and a friend at the grotto of Massabielle outside Lourdes, she had an experience that completely changed her life and the town of Lourdes where she had lived. It was on this day in 1858 that Bernadette claimed she had the first of 18 visions of what she termed "a small young lady" (ua petita damisela) standing in a niche in the rock. The contents of Bernadette's reported visions were simple and mostly focused on the need for prayer and penance. We begin this morning with Mass after which we will walk in the footsteps of Bernadette as we visit the Grotto of Massabielle, the site of St. Bernadette's visions of the Virgin Mary (The Blessed Virgin is said to have pointed out a previously undiscovered spring in the grotto and instructed Bernadette to drink from it. The spring water from the grotto is believed to possess healing properties, and the Roman Catholic Church occasionally officially recognizes miraculous healings.), the home in which St. Bernadette and her family lived at the time the girl saw visions of the Virgin Mary, the parish church, and other holy shrines and sites related to these miraculous visions. We are welcome to participate in the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessing of the Sick (depending on seasonal schedules) in the late afternoon, and will return to the Sanctuary for the Rosary and Torchlight Procession (beginning at about 8:30 p.m. depending on seasonal schedules) after dinner. After the day's rich events, we return to our hotel for a second night's stay in Lourdes.

### Day 4: Friday: Loyola & León

(B,D)

Following breakfast at the hotel, we check-out and transfer to Loyola, Spain, the birthplace of St Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits. St Ignatius of Loyola, a Spanish knight from a Basque noble family, emerged as a religious leader during the Counter Reformation. Loyola's devotion to the Church was characterized by unquestioning obedience to everything said by her hierarchy. He was much influenced by Ludolph of Saxoney's *De Vita Christi* where it is proposed that the reader place himself at the scene of each Gospel story. This is known as a method of prayer called Simple Contemplation and is the basis of the method that St Ignatius set out in his Spiritual Exercises. In Loyola we'll visit the home of St. Ignatius and the 17th Century Basilica dedicated to him. We will continue to León, Spain, for dinner and overnight.



**Day 5: Saturday: León 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 6: 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 7: 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 8: 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 9: 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 10: 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 11: 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 12: 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 13: 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 14: 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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