

**PILGRIMAGE TO SHRINES OF FRANCE**  
**WITH FR. CARLOS DIAZ, HOLY CROSS PARISH, GEORGETOWN**  
**MON. OCT. 27 – SAT. NOV. 8, 2025**  
 13 Days Including Travel

**\$5,390.00 PP/DOUBLE**  
 Includes air taxes and surcharges

Lourdes • Toulouse • Rocamadour • Ars-sur-Formans • Paray Le Monial  
 • Nevers • Chartres • Le Mont Saint Michel • Lisieux • Paris

**Your 13 Day Itinerary**

**Day 1 – Mon. Oct. 27 Toronto to Toulouse**

We meet at Toronto Airport for our overnight flight to Toulouse, France via Montreal. Enjoy complimentary meals and beverage service during our overnight flight.

**Day 2 – Tue. Oct. 28 Arrive Toulouse / Lourdes**

Arrive to Lourdes, the largest Catholic pilgrimage destination in France and one of the most popular Catholic shrines in the world. It is here in **Lourdes**, a small market town lying in the foothills of the Pyrenees, where, at the **Grotto of Massabielle**, Our Lady appeared in 1858 to **Bernadette Soubirous** and announced herself as the Immaculate Conception. During the first two apparitions, little Bernadette prayed the Rosary with Our Lady. She left without exchanging any words. During the following apparitions, Our Lady emphasized God's love for us, penance, and the necessity of performing acts of penance for sinners. On arrival here, after hotel check in and a stop for lunch, we'll have a guided visit to the **Sanctuary and the Grotto**. This evening, following dinner, join the nightly Rosary and Candlelight Procession and Rosary. (D)



**Overnight – Lourdes – Hotel Saint Sauveur or similar - 3 nights**



**Day 3 – Wed. Oct. 29 Lourdes**

Today, after breakfast, we meet our local guide and together, we **walk in the footsteps of Saint Bernadette** along the quaint streets. We'll visit the many places associated with the life of Bernadette such as the **Boly Mill** where she was born, and the **"Cachot,"** an abandoned prison where Bernadette's impoverished family lived, and the **Parish Church** where she was baptized. Then, the afternoon is free time to experience Lourdes as you wish. Join other pilgrims from around the world as you pray for the sick, drink **water from the miraculous spring**, participate in the **Water Gesture** and to participate in the **Procession of the Blessed Sacrament** before dinner at the hotel. The evening is free for you to join the **Rosary and Candlelight Procession**. (B, D)

**Day 4 – Thu. Oct. 30                      Lourdes / Betharrem / Lourdes**

This morning, we will transfer 15km away to the little village of **Betharrem**, an ancient pilgrimage site, and mother house of the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Betharrem, founded by Saint Michel Garicoits. Bernadette Soubirous often came to Betharrem, and she went to the village four or five days before the apparitions. The rosary she used at the Massabielle Grotto came from the **Betharrem shrine**. Saint Garicoits was the only man to believe straight away in the apparitions. We have Holy Mass here, followed by walking the unique **Stations of the Cross**. Return to Lourdes for the afternoon for free time to experience Lourdes as you wish. This final evening in Lourdes, you may join the **Rosary and Candlelight Procession**.



(B, D)

**Day 5 – Fri. Oct. 31                      Lourdes / Toulouse / Rocamadour**

This morning, we leave Lourdes and continue to **Toulouse**, known as La Ville Rose (The Pink City) due to the terra-cotta bricks used in many of its buildings. Meet our local guide for a walking tour first visiting the **Saint-Sernin Basilica**, the former abbey church of the Abbey of Saint-Sernin or St Saturnin, the first bishop of Toulouse. As well as **Saint Saturnin**, **Saint Honoratus** is also buried here. The crypt contains the relics of many other saints, including, by tradition, the **Apostles St Simon and St Jude**. Saint Saturninus of Toulouse's feast days are celebrated on November 29th and October 30<sup>th</sup>.



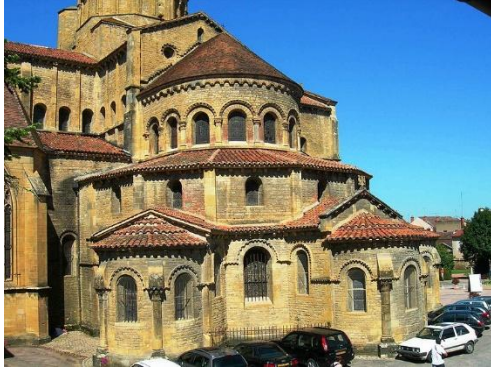
Then we walk to the **Church of the Jacobins**, containing the **tomb of St Thomas Aquinas**, whose remains are entombed in a golden reliquary beside the altar. Dating back to 1230, the **Church of the Jacobins** traces its origins to a small community of monastic preachers originally founded by St Dominic at Toulouse. Although the church is no longer in active use, a part of it has been converted into a museum. After a stop for lunch, we proceed to **Rocamadour**, and the **Shrine of Our**

**Lady of Rocamadour**. The name comes from the French "roc" referring to the cliff on which the shrine is perched, and the name Amadour refers to the name of the hermit who built an oratory here shortly after Christ's crucifixion. Although there is little evidence, it is believed by many that the hermit was **Zaccheus**, whom Christ converted in Jericho and then went to Gaul. The body of this man, whomever he may be, was found lodged in an opening in the cliff in 1166. It was incorrupt and when it was presented for veneration reports of miracles soon followed. Later a statue of the Madonna was brought to the shrine and pilgrims reported prayers being answered after venerating the statue. Although the body was destroyed sometime during the 16th Century, the statue of the **Black Madonna** was kept securely hidden and is now on display in the chapel, which is located about half-way up the cliff. (B, D)

**Overnight – Rocamadour – Hotel Beau Site or similar - 1 night**

**Day 6 – Sat. Nov. 01 Rocamadour / Ars sur Formans / Paray le Monial**

After a hearty breakfast, we depart Rocamadour and continue to **Ars sur Formans**, famous through the holy life and labors of **St. John Vianney**, its beloved Curé. The story of John



Vianney emphasizes how God used a poor and simple man who was considered only marginally fit to be a priest and became a saint. Visit the **Basilica of Ars** where you can observe his preserved body in a glass reliquary. We have Mass in Ars followed by a lunch stop, before departing to **Paray le Monial**, known as the **Sacred Heart city** and considered by some to be "a town very dear to heaven". Paray le Monial is known across the world thanks to the popularity of the message of the heart of Jesus. Jesus appeared to a young nun from the Visitation Monastery, called **Marguerite-Marie**

**Alacoque**, showing her "this heart which has loved men so much". We will have a visit of **Apparitions Chapel** where the relics of Saint Margaret-Mary lies in a decorated reliquary and **The Sacred Heart Basilica** where John-Paul II came as a pilgrim himself. We have dinner and overnight in this town of about 5,000 inhabitants.

**Overnight – Paray le Monial - Hostellerie des Trois Pigeons or similar – 1 night**

**Day 7 – Sun. Nov. 02 Paray le Monial / Nevers / Chartres**

After breakfast, we depart for **Nevers**, through the picturesque French countryside. We visit the **Bernadette Soubirous Centre**, entirely dedicated to this venerable Saint Bernadette, a simple and humble young girl, who the Virgin Mary chose to appear in Lourdes. She took the veil in 1867, at the age of 23 years and spent the rest of her life totally devoted to God. She lived for 12 years as a member of the **Congregation of the Sisters of Nevers**. During her short life, Bernadette received the Sacrament of healing of the sick (last rites) at least 3 times. She suffered from asthma, and other illnesses, among them tuberculosis of the lungs and a tumor in her right knee. Saint Bernadette eventually died at 35. We have Holy Mass at the **St.**



**Bernadette's Chapel** where her **incorrupt remains** lie in a crystal reliquary followed with a guided walk in the **footsteps of Saint Bernadette** and visit the key

places **associated with her life in Nevers**; Bernadette's Sanctuary Holy Garden including St. Joseph's Chapel, The Grotto Our Lady of the Waters. After a stop for lunch, we continue to the medieval town of Chartres.

**Overnight – Chartres – Mercure Chartres Cathedrale Hotel or similar - 1 night**

**Day 8 – Mon. Nov. 03 Chartres / Le Mont Saint Michel**

We visit the famous **Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Chartres**, an almost perfect image of how it looked when it was built. One of the greatest achievements of architecture, it is almost perfectly preserved in its original design and details such as the stained-glass windows. The Cathedral narrowly escaped destruction during World War II, when orders were given to U.S. forces to bombard the Cathedral due to suspected German snipers in the tower. A heroic serviceman

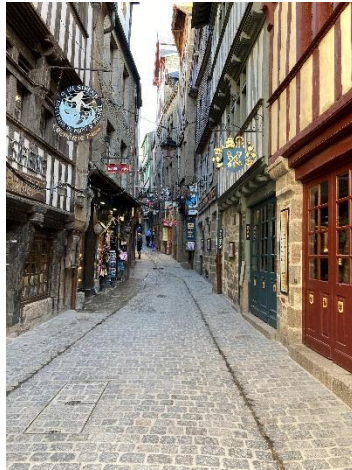


from voluntarily went into the occupied town, climbed up the tower and found that there were no snipers present, and the order was never carried out. After a lunch stop, we continue to **Le Mont Saint Michel** in time for dinner and overnight. (B, D)

**Overnight – Le Mont Saint Michele – Mercure Mont Saint Michel - 2 nights**

**Day 9 – Tue. Nov. 04                      Le Mont Saint Michel**

Rightly called "The Wonder of the Western World", the **Mont Saint-Michel** is surrounded by a magnificent bay, which is the theatre of the greatest tidal ranges in Europe, a wonderful view on



its own. The medieval monastery is dedicated to **St. Michael the Archangel**. According to tradition, in 709 Saint Michael the Archangel appeared to the bishop of Avranches, St. Aubert, and told him to build a chapel in his honor on the island. Saint Michael had to appear to him at least two more times before he took the vision seriously. On the third occasion, it is said that Saint Michael drove his finger into Aubert's skull and ordered him once again to complete the task. The bishop finally obeyed, and within a short time he sent a group of monks over to live on the island. Since 1969 a diocesan Benedictine community of monks and nuns have ensured the celebration of religious services for pilgrims and tourists alike. We'll have a guided tour that takes us to the **Abbey of Mont Saint Michel**. Be prepared for a bit of a climb once you get to Mont St. Michel, but you can pace yourself along the way.

The rest of the afternoon is free to explore this quaint medieval village. (B, D)

**Day 10 – Wed. Nov. 05                      Le Mont Saint Michel / Lisieux**

Today we continue to the town of **Lisieux**, home of **St. Theresa, the Little Flower of Jesus**. Saint Theresa entered the **Carmelite convent** at age 15 and lived a cloistered life until her death at age 24. Her last months were painful, but she accepted her pain in a spirit of love. She died in 1897 and within 28 years of her death, in 1925, with public demand was so great she was canonized. She never went on missions, never founded a religious order, and never performed great works. She wrote an account of her short life, which was published after her death, a brief edited version of her journal called "Story of a Soul." When we arrive, following a lunch break, we will have a panoramic visit of Lisieux before the hotel check-in. We spend the next 2 nights at the **Sanctuary of Lisieux**, in the pilgrim's guesthouse. Here, we will follow the pilgrim's guide and will be expected to participate in the running of the pilgrims' hostel by making and unmaking beds, sorting laundry, setting and clearing the tables, tidying rooms, and sorting rubbish. This will be a true pilgrim experience. (B, D)

**Overnight – Lisieux – Hermitage Sainte Thérèse - 2 nights**



### **Hermitage Sainte Thérèse**

You will receive a warm welcome by the community of Sisters Servants of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus and the lay staff. The Hermitage is a reception house of the Sanctuary of Sainte Therese of Lisieux located next to Carmel. The rooms are mainly equipped with two beds and ensuite bathrooms. Wi-Fi is available. A self-service breakfast is served, and lunch and evening meals are available. Pilgrims are expected to clear their table after eating. There are no bed making facility at the Hermitage, but bed sheets and towels are provided.

### **Day 11 – Thu. Nov. 06 Lisieux**

In **Lisieux**, we follow the Spiritual programme based on the teachings of St. Therese and her Little Way of Spiritual Childhood. St. Theresa entered the Carmelite convent at age 15 and lived a cloistered life until her death at age 24. She never went on missions, never found a religious order, and never performed great works. The only book of hers, published after her death, was a brief edited version of her journal called "Story of a Soul." But within 28 years of her death, the public demand was so great that she was canonized. We will **visit all the places related to her life**. We visit the **Basilica and the Carmel and its chapel** where the Saint's tomb may be seen. We have a private mass here. Visit **Saint Peter's Cathedral** and the **Gothic Cathedral of Saint Pierre** which was Saint Therese's parish church. We see the **Buissonnets**, the house where Theresa lived with her family until she entered the **Carmel Convent**. Pope Saint Pius X called her "the greatest Saint of modern times". We will also watch a film on the life of Saint Therese "**A Giant's Race**". Then back to the Hermitage for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



### **Day 12 – Fri. Nov. 07 Lisieux / Paris**

Today, we continue to Paris "city of lights". We'll spend the day in Paris with private mass at the **Chapel of our Lady of the Miraculous Medal** (pending confirmation), followed by a visit to the incorrupt body of **Saint Catherine Labouret**. Nearby, is the St. Vincent de Paul Shrine. We'll have a visit of the renowned **Notre Dame Cathedral** now opened to all after the fire that destroyed much of the beloved cathedral. Continue our **orientation tour** with a view of **Sainte Chapel, Sacre Coeur Basilica** dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the **Arc de Triomphe** and the **Champs Elysees** and the **Eiffel Tower**. Check in to our overnight hotel conveniently located near the Eiffel Tower, and Paris city center. (B, D)

**Overnight – Paris – Novotel Paris La Defense Hotel – 1 night**

### **Day 13 – Sat. Nov. 8 Return Toronto**

This morning, we transfer to Paris Airport for our return flight to Toronto.

*It is our intention to operate all tours as described in the itineraries. Local operational situations occasionally force changes to be made and we reserve the right to do so.*



### Cost of Pilgrimage All Prices shown in Canadian Dollars

CAD 5,390.00 per person	Base on double occupancy Includes Return Air, Taxes and Surcharges
CAD 980.00	Single Supplement

#### Includes:

- Roundtrip Airfare Toronto / Montreal / Toulouse / Paris / Toronto
- All air taxes and fuel surcharges
- 11 nights' accommodation at superior hotels and pilgrims Guest House on Half Board basis (breakfast, dinner)
- Transportation on a modern, comfortable coach
- Local English-Speaking Guides throughout the pilgrimage
- Visits and Entrance Fees as per itinerary
- Whisper's (hearing ear buds)
- Porterage at some hotels
- Daily Mass pre-arranged
- Fr. Carlos Diaz, Spiritual Leader
- Escorted from Toronto

#### Not Included

Gratuities TBA collected in CAD prior to departure (coach driver and local guides) • Travel Insurance (strongly recommended) and **must be purchased no later than final payment date** • Personal Expenses • Beverages with included Meals • Bottled Water, etc, other than coffee/tea at breakfast • Meals not specified in the itinerary • Free Will Donations

#### Reservations, deposits and payment:

- A deposit of \$350.00 plus optional Travel Insurance Premium is due at the time of booking.
- A copy of the information page of your current passport must accompany this completed form.
- Balance is due 90 days prior to departure (Thu. July 29, 2025).
- Deposit may be made by E-Transfer to [sales@suvara.com](mailto:sales@suvara.com)
- A 4% service fee will apply when payment is made by credit card.
- If a booking is made 90 days or less prior to departure full payment is due. Reservations received after this date are subject to availability and currency fluctuations.
- We recommend strongly that you purchase cancellation insurance no later than final payment date.

#### Cancellations & refunds:

##### Please Refer to Terms and Conditions included with Registration Form

- All cancellations must be submitted in writing. Cancellation will be effective upon receipt of official intention to cancel.
- Cancellations prior to final payment date, \$200.00 administrative fee plus Travel Insurance

Connaissance Travel and Tours, 3852 Finch Ave. E., Suite 306, Toronto, ON M1T 3T9  
 Tel: 877-701-7729/416-291-2676 ext:239 Fax: 416-292-4924 TICO Ont Reg 3094019  
[www.connaissancetravel.com](http://www.connaissancetravel.com) [lizdachuk@connaissancetravel.com](mailto:lizdachuk@connaissancetravel.com)



Premium will be retained.

- 89 – 60 days prior to departure 50% of the total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
- 59 – 30 days prior to departure 75% of total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
- 29 – 0 days prior to departure 100% of total price plus Travel Insurance Premium will be retained.
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**416-291-2676 Ext 239 / Toll free 877-701-7729 Ext 239**  
**Email: [lizdachuk@connaissancetravel.com](mailto:lizdachuk@connaissancetravel.com)**