

A PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS SHRINES IN FRANCE

May 26 – June 8, 2019

Do you have a devotion to the Blessed Mother? Have you ever desired to go on a pilgrimage to the sites where people literally saw her face? Mary, the mother of Jesus, has appeared in five cities in France! You have heard of Lourdes (1858) and La Salette (1846) and the Miraculous Medal (1830 in Paris); but before these three there was Laus (1664-1718) to Benoitte Rencurel and after these famous three there was Pontmain to the local children (1871).

Consider joining a group of pilgrims not only to these five Marian Shrines in France but also to the Papal Palace in Avignon and to Lisieux to honor the Little Flower St Therese as we visit her family home, her Carmelite Convent Chapel and the basilica erected for her canonization. Pray at these shrines, attend Mass almost daily and return home with greater love and devotion for our Mother Mary. Father John Boivin of Holy Name Cathedral is the spiritual director of this tour.

May 26. Depart Chicago for Marseilles with a short connection in Paris. Dinner and breakfast aloft.

May 27. Upon arrival in Marseilles we will go by private motorcoach to Laus. Overnight in the city of Gap. Welcome dinner at the hotel.

May 28. After breakfast, tour of the town of Laus and the Sanctuare of Notre Dame. In May of 1664 Our Lady appeared to a 17 year old shepherdess called Benoitte Rencurel in the small village of Saint Etienne-le-Laus. Benoitte drove her neighbor's flock up to the same spot to meet the Beautiful Lady every day for four months. The Lady came back every day and Benoitte heard her speak. Others could not hear what Mary said. A small chapel was built near where Mary appeared. Mary revealed herself as the Reconciler and Refuge of sinners. She told Benoitte that the oil from the sanctuary lamp would work miracles with the infirm if they received the anointing with faith in her intercession. The local Bishop approved these apparitions the following year but it was not until May 2008 that Laus was officially given Shrine status. We will have Mass at the Sanctuare of Notre Dame . Time on your own for private devotion.

May 29. After breakfast, depart for La Salette, a small town of 200 people about 50 miles from Grenoble and site of apparitions of the Virgin Mary to two children in 1846. Visit the Basilica of Our Lady of La Salette and celebrate Mass at the shrine. Afterwards depart for Avignon, the city which served as the Second Capital of the Catholic Church during most of the 14th century. Dinner and overnight in Avignon.

May 30. After breakfast go on a half day tour of Avignon including the Palace of the Popes. Mass will be celebrated in one of the churches in Avignon. Time on your own to enjoy this beautiful city.

May 31. Depart Avignon for Lourdes with a stop in Carcassone for lunch. Arrive in Lourdes early evening. Dinner and free time.

June 1. After breakfast we have a scheduled Mass in one of the chapels at the Basilica. After Mass go on a walking tour of Lourdes to visit places associated with the life of St. Bernadette. These include Boly Mill where she was born, the Locale Mill, residence of her parents, the Cachot, formerly used as a jail, where she lived at the time of the apparitions, the Chapel where Bernadette received her First Holy Communion and the Parish Church containing the baptismal font where she was baptized. Afternoon free for your own private devotion. At 4:30pm you may want to participate in the procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the blessing of the sick. Tonight you can join the candlelight procession.

June 2. Today you have a free day after Mass in the Basilica. Throughout our time in Lourdes you will have the opportunity to attend Mass at the Basilica and the Grotto where our Lady appeared to Bernadette, watch a video presentation that explains in detail the story of Lourdes, drink water from the miraculous spring that has healed many and submerge yourself in the healing baths. Additionally you have the opportunity to experience Christ's unconditional love as you meditate upon the life size Stations of the Cross that overlook the Grotto. While in Lourdes you will walk and meditate upon the footsteps of St. Bernadette. You will have the opportunity to join the candlelight procession at night.

June 3. After Mass and breakfast depart for Pontmain, site of the apparitions of Our Lady in January 17, 1871 to four children above a barn on the farm of the Barbadette family. They described a beautiful lady in a dark blue dress covered with stars. She wore a black veil with a golden crown on her head. A written message appeared on a white banner which unrolled beneath the feet of Our Lady. A message was given to the people that God had heard their prayers and that He would answer their needs shortly. It was the height of the Franco Prussian war in 1871 and the Prussians were about to declare victory over France. Pontmain was 30 miles away from the battle and about to be the next town invaded. Within eleven days of the apparition Prussia mysteriously withdrew its troops, an armistice was signed and the war was over. Dinner and overnight in Nantes.

June 4. This morning we spend time in Nantes. Nantes is the sixth largest city in France on the Loire. This morning you have time on your own to visit the beautiful gothic Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul. Then enjoy a break by shopping at the Passage Promenade, a narrow passage covered with a glass ceiling consisting of 3 levels of shopping galleries. Leave around noon for Pontmain, a two and a half hour ride. Stop in the highway for lunch. Pontmain is a very small town and the main attraction is the barn and the Cathedral of Our Lady of Hope. Mass has been requested here. Overnight in Fougères.

June 5. Depart for Lisieux, home of St Therese of the Little Flower. We will visit the family home, the Basilica and the Carmelite Convent chapel, the reliquary of St Therese and celebrate Mass here. Then continue on to Paris, our home for the next 3 days.

June 6. After breakfast we are transported to Rue de Bac to visit the Miraculous Medal Chapel to see the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Laboure and the heart of St. Vincent the Paul. We will celebrate Mass in the Chapel of St Catherine Laboure. This afternoon we will do a sightseeing tour of Paris with stops at Notre Dame and Sacre Couer.

June 7. Today is a free day to explore Paris on your own. You may want to visit the Louvre, go on an optional excursion to Versailles or simply explore the many shops around our hotel. We will schedule Mass to be celebrated at the Madeleine Church. Tonight we have our farewell dinner.

June 8. Transfer to the airport for our flight home.

Cost based on a minimum of 20 passengers:

Total cost per person based on double occupancy.....\$3986.00

Single supplement.....\$790.00

Price quoted is based on payment by check or cash only and subject to change based on currency fluctuation. Rates based on currency exchange as of July 25,2018.

Above costs include:

- Roundtrip transportation from Chicago.
- Accommodations in 4-star hotels
- Full breakfast daily. Five dinners, one lunch
- Deluxe long distance vehicle and local guides.
- Porterage (one piece per person) is included wherever available.
- All gratuities to local guides and driver.

Participants limited to 30. Reservations are accepted on a first come-first served basis.

Deposit: \$600 per person. Final payment is due by March 25, 2019.

Cancellation and refunds. Cancellation fees apply to each person. If you cancel your tour, cancellation fees will be assessed as follows:

<u>Prior to departure</u>	<u>Cancellation Fees</u>
90 days or more	\$50
60-89 days	\$300
45-89 days	\$600
7-44 days	\$1000
6 days or less	100% of cost

Insurance is optional but **highly recommended**. Rates vary according to age and amount of coverage.

For more information please call Isabel Juan at 312-664-1414 or email isabeljuan@aol.com.

RESERVATION FORM

Name (s) as it (they) appear on passport:

1. _____ 2. _____

Citizenship _____ Date of Birth _____ Citizenship _____ Date of birth _____

Address _____ Home phone _____

_____ Cell phone _____

Email _____

Deposits and final payment should be made payable to RIZAL TRAVEL CENTER and mailed to Isabel Juan 5555 N. Sheridan Road #403 Chicago Illinois 60640