

Days of Devotion



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Day 1 | Welcome to Barcelona



On this Travel with Faith journey, give thanks to God in a city that embraces religious tolerance; a city that celebrates the Glory of God in some of the world's most inspiring churches. You'll have free time to explore Barcelona before meeting your Travel Director and fellow travel companions for a Welcome Reception and orientation of the city to kickstart your pilgrimage.

Meals: Welcome Reception

Hotel: Exe Cristal Palace

Day 2 | Explore Bustling Barcelona



Spend the morning exploring the spiritual side of Barcelona in the company of your Local Specialist. We Dive Into Culture for an opportunity to see the city's most celebrated religious monument, La Sagrada Família, stepping through its intricately carved doors, into the creative genius of Gaudí's mind and his breath-taking gift to God. The soaring spires and exquisitely told stories reflected on its outside walls cannot prepare you for the beauty within. The rest of the day is yours to follow in the footsteps of the faithful. You may consider joining an Optional Experience to Montserrat to see the shrine of the Black Madonna, affectionately known in Catalonia as 'La Moreneta', followed by an optional evening of clapping and castanets at an evening Flamenco show. As you watch the twirling skirts and hear the trill of the guitar, you'll feel the energy of this fiery UNESCO-listed tradition adored by the Spanish.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Exe Cristal Palace

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Mystical Montserrat - Today, with our Local Specialist, take a drive to the enchanting and mystical mountain of Montserrat, with its breathtaking views and spectacular scenery. While there, visit the Benedictine monastery to view the famed Black Madonna. At the daily farmer's market, perhaps sample and purchase their homemade cheeses, honeys, and other local specialties.

Adult: 53.00 EUR

**This optional experience involves reservation and entrance pre-payments. Cancellation will incur a 50% cancellation fee.*

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

Olympic Barcelona with Catalan Dinner - Take a scenic drive up to Montjuïc for sweeping views over buzzing Barcelona and a glimpse of the buildings used during the 1992 Olympics. Afterwards, indulge in a delicious Catalan style dinner complemented by drinks and good company.

Adult: 72.00 EUR

Flamenco Spectacular With Dinner - Come and experience the passion and spirit of Spain at a spectacular flamenco evening. This modern interpretation of Spain's most famous entertainment is one of the best shows in town, and we've even included dinner and drinks.

Adult: 96.00 EUR

**This optional involves reservation pre-payments. Cancellation within 48 hours will incur a 50% cancellation fee.*

Day 3 | Journey to Ancient Carcassonne



We journey north, across the Pyrenees and Cathar landscapes bound for the fortified city of Carcassonne. Here we'll join a Local Specialist to explore this ancient town, which you'll learn was once the stronghold of pious believers of the Cathar faith from the 12th century until they were persecuted and expelled by the Inquisition. Marvelling at the Cité, you'll understand why it's said to have inspired Walt Disney for his Castle of Sleeping Beauty, and you'll know that the same double-ring of ramparts and 52 towers you see today. You'll get to relive all the highlights and share your spellbinding stories this evening as you relax over a traditional dinner featuring some of the hearty cuisine for which the region is particularly well known.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Mercure La Cité

Day 4 | Onwards to Lourdes



A leisurely start to our day sees us journey west to Lourdes, the global centre of the Marian pilgrimage and the holy place where St. Bernadette was said to have had visions of Mary in a cave. Embark on a sightseeing visit of Lourdes' noteworthy religious sites to gain a real sense of the devotion that pilgrims over the centuries have felt for this place. You'll trace the story of St. Bernadette of Lourdes, who witnessed the Marian apparitions of the Immaculate Conception and was canonised in 1933, eventually becoming the patron saint of bodily illness. A Local Specialist will accompany you on a visit to St. Bernadette's Grotto, the shrine and her birthplace, and you'll learn how millions of pilgrims come to this holy place to pray and drink its miraculous water, following the same instruction of our Lady of Lourdes to 'drink at the spring'. You'll feel the spiritual importance of this sacred place as you explore the Domain and contemplate the miracles that have occurred since the Virgin Mary's apparition here. As the sun sets, you'll have an opportunity to share in this devotion first-hand as you Dive Into Culture for the mesmerising Torchlight Procession, which has moved through the city's streets since 1858. Join believers from all over the world in singing the Ave Maria of Lourdes – a spine-tingling experience that will touch you forever.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Mercure Impérial

Day 5 | Lourdes Your Way



This morning, you have a chance to attend an international mass held Every Sunday, a one-of-a-kind experience. The rest of the day is free for you to explore, why not wander in the historic centre of Lourdes and see the castle and the 100-year-old Pyrenean Museum exhibiting the history and cultures of the mountains? Unlock the flavours of Lourdes sampling its famed Tarbaïs bean, Pyrenees chestnut, and rainbow trout from nearby mountain lakes.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Mercure Impérial

Day 6 | Off to Uncover the Treasures of Burgos



Our spiritual interlude with France comes to an end as we pass into Spain's Basque Country and continue to Burgos, the historic capital of Castile founded as an outpost of the expanding Christian frontier. Meet your Local Specialist for a sightseeing tour of its medieval centre, with the highlight being a visit to the UNESCO-listed Cathedral of Saint Mary of Burgos, dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Here you'll have time to spend a quiet moment of contemplation and prayer amidst the many extraordinary works of Renaissance artists and see the tomb of El Cid, the celebrated Castilian nobleman and a national hero. Enjoy dinner tonight at your hotel

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: NH Collection Palacio

Day 7 | Pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela



Follow in the footsteps of Saint James, crossing the Spanish 'North' to Santiago de Compostela. Imagine the thousands of pilgrims who have embarked on this spiritual path, as you travel west through the rolling countryside, as they have in devotion for centuries. On arrival, your Travel Director will provide a brief orientation of this famous pilgrimage site after which you'll have some time at leisure to explore on your own. Perhaps you'd like to soak up the architecture and atmosphere of the city's winding streets, sample the Pilgrim's menu at the San Franciscan convent-turned hotel and restaurant. This evening, you have an opportunity to give praise at the Pilgrim's Mass, which welcomes the pilgrims who have been received in the city in the last day.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Eurostars San Lázaro

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Santiago de Compostela by Night with Galician Dinner - This evening, you'll travel back in time to the city where medieval pilgrims flocked. You'll get to marvel at the illuminated historical buildings of Santiago de Compostela.

before relaxing at a local restaurant we know and love - where you'll sample the delicious local Galician cuisine.
Adult: 74.00 EUR

Day 8 | Discover Santiago de Compostela



Join a Local Specialist this morning for a sightseeing tour which includes a visit to the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, the final resting place of St. James, the apostle of Jesus Christ. The Romanesque medieval cathedral in the heart of old Santiago also marks the end of the Camino de Santiago and you'll feel the spiritual significance it still has for pilgrims many centuries after it was completed in the 13th century. This afternoon, explore Santiago de Compostela at your leisure, perhaps a more in-depth visit to the UNESCO-listed Old Town with its festive atmosphere and a chance to stop in at one of the cosy coffee shops for a slice of almond-filled heaven, the local Tarta de Santiago. You may also consider joining an Optional Experience to the coastal centre of Rías Baixas where you'll discover the deep fjord-like estuaries of Galicia with our Local Specialist, stopping in O Grove Port and the village of Cambados, before enjoying a refreshing boat trip to sample mussels and Ribeiro wine fresh from the local farms, leaving some space for dinner later at your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Eurostars San Lázaro

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Explore Rías Baixas and the Mussel Beds - Join us on a visit to Ría de Arosa, one of the deep fjord-like estuaries of Galicia, with our Local Specialist. We'll stop at O Grove Port and the village of Cambados, before enjoying a boat trip to the mussel and oyster farms, where we'll sample locally farmed food and wine.

Adult: 54.00 EUR

Day 9 | Venture to Fátima



Our trip through Spain ends and we continue our spiritual journey south to Portugal. Our first stop is at Vila Verde, to meet the ladies of Aliança Artesanal for a MAKE TRAVEL MATTER® Experience safeguarding the old tradition of the Handkerchief of Love. We continue to the Catholic pilgrimage site of Fátima, the path followed by millions of pilgrims to the shrine where three young shepherds famously saw the apparition of the Virgin Mary. Your orientation tour will give you an overview of the history and religious significance of this holy place and you'll watch how devotees pray for health, happiness and repentance. This evening, peace will fill your heart as you join worshippers from all over the world reciting the Rosary in the hushed and magnificent surrounds of the famous Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Fátima

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Excursion to Tomar - Join your Local Specialist in a visit to the quaint city of Tomar, stronghold of the Templar Knights, and visit their fantastic Convent of Christ, once head-quarters of the Order, and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Day 10 | Fátima Your Way



We journey to the tiny village of Aljustrel, where the three shepherds once lived, to see their humble home which stands to this day. You'll have time to witness the power of faith in Fátima at your leisure or consider joining an Optional Experience to Nazaré and Batalha, with its impressive Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitória na Batalha built in the 15th century to pay homage to the Portuguese victory at the Battle of Aljubarrota and thank the Virgin Mary for her intervention in their battle with the Castilians. This beautiful Gothic-turned-Manueline honey-hued structure was home to Portugal's first stained-glass workshop, and you'll see the radiant beauty all around you as you explore further. See the statue of Nuno Álvares Pereira on his horse, learning how this military commander who was credited with winning this battle and keeping Portugal independent. You'll leave with a deep understanding of the events leading up to its construction and know that through your visit, you help to support its preservation for years to come.

Meals: Breakfast

Hotel: Fátima

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

Monastery of Batalha And Nazaré - Visit Batalha Monastery a UNESCO World Heritage site, it is the best example of late Gothic architecture in Portugal. Then visit the famous fishing village of Nazaré with some incredible coastal scenery. You can enjoy some free time or perhaps a lovely lunch before returning to Fátima.

Adult: 43.00 EUR

Day 11 | Continue to Colourful Lisbon



A short journey this morning sees us arrive to Lisbon. You'll meet a Local Specialist who will accompany us on a drive through the lush avenues of the Portuguese capital, past the black and white mosaic pavements, bound for Belém, a district on the River Tagus. You'll see the Monument to the Discoveries and the Belém Tower before we Dive Into Culture and visit the exquisite 16th-century Hieronymite Monastery. The resident monks of the Order of Saint Jerome were tasked to give guidance to sailors and pray for the soul of King Manuel I and beyond its spiritual significance, you'll be mesmerised by its beauty. After a day of sightseeing, we enjoy an exclusive Be My Guest experience and Connect With Locals for a Farewell Dinner featuring some of the delicious local delicacies.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

Hotel: Neya Lisboa

OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

The Golden Triangle: Sintra, Cascais & The Estoril Coast - We'll venture outside Lisbon with our Local Specialist today. After passing through the fashionable resort of Estoril, we'll explore the picturesque fishing village of Cascais, with its beautiful array of mansions and exclusive residences. To complete the Golden Triangle, we'll visit one of the impressive Royal Palaces of Portugal.

Adult: 51.00 EUR

Day 12 | Farewell Lisbon



Say farewell to newfound friends after a memorable spiritual journey.

Meals: Breakfast