

CIRCA



TOURS

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Chartres Cathedral

Photo by Circa Tours

Lourdes and Other Holy Shrines in France

On this faith-based vacation, follow in the footsteps of the devoted through France. Start your trip in Paris with a guided sightseeing tour of the city. Then on to Lisieux in pastoral Normandy. Next is Lourdes, the high point of this pilgrimage, in the majestic Pyrenees mountains. Swing by impressive Carcassonne and medieval Avignon in Provence. And on the way back to Paris, stop in Paray le Monial, Nevers where St. Bernadette spent her life as a nun, and visit the magnificent Gothic cathedral of Chartres. This tour is an inspiring spiritual journey as well as a sightseeing discovery of some of France's most popular destinations.

ITINERARY

(Allow one extra day for travel from the U.S. to Paris.)

DAY 1: Paris. Arrive in Paris and spend the rest of the day at your leisure. At 6 pm, meet the tour director, then enjoy this evening's welcome dinner with your traveling companions. (Dinner)

DAY 2: Paris. Sightseeing with a local guide featuring the Arc de Triomphe, Le Louvre, the Champs-Élysées, and the Eiffel Tower. Visit the basilica of Sacre Coeur on top of Montmartre. Afterwards, visit Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine, where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Catherine Laboure in 1830. Then, visit the St Vincent De Paul Shrine, where you can see the reliquary of the saint who has inspired thousands of charities and volunteers. (Breakfast)

DAY 3: Paris. The morning is dedicated to the architectural wonders of Notre Dame Cathedral, where the relics of the Passion of the Christ can be seen. Afternoon and evening at leisure. (Breakfast)

DAY 4: Paris, Lisieux, Paris. Travel to Lisieux, in Normandy, and visit Les Buissonnets, family home of St. Therese. Afterwards, visit the basilica of St. Therese. St. Therese was known as "The Little Flower" and for her charming autobiography: "The Story of a Soul". Next, visit St. Peter's Cathedral, where her family attended mass, and the Carmelite convent, where she lived as a nun. Return to Paris. (Breakfast)

DAY 5: Paris, Lourdes. Journey on board the high-speed train to Lourdes, one of the world's most famous pilgrimage destinations. Visit the grotto where the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernardette in 1858. Join this evening's memorable rosary and candlelight procession. (Breakfast, Dinner)

DAY 6: Lourdes. Your walking tour with a local guide includes visits to Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine and St. Bernadette's birthplace and family home. You may wish to bathe in the healing waters or attend the "Blessing of the Sick." Also, you may wish to join this evening's rosary and candlelight procession. (Breakfast)



DAY 7: Lourdes. Full day at leisure to further explore Lourdes on your own or join an optional excursion to the nearby Pyrenees mountains. (Breakfast)

DAY 8: Lourdes, Carcassonne, Avignon. First stop in Carcassonne, a medieval town and UNESCO World Heritage site. Then, continue on to Avignon. Enjoy a walk through this pretty town where the papacy resided in the 14th century. (Breakfast, Dinner)

DAY 9: Avignon, Paray-le-Monial, Nevers. This morning, there is time to explore the shops of Avignon or you may wish to visit the Palace of the Popes before continuing to Paray-le-Monial, home to the Chapel of the Apparitions and where Jesus revealed his Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. Also, visit the basilica of the Sacred Heart. Arrive in Nevers. (Breakfast, Dinner)



DAY 10: Nevers, Chartres, Paris. Visit St. Gildard in Nevers, where St. Bernadette spent her life as a nun. See her miraculously preserved body. Continue to Chartres and visit the cathedral, one of Europe's most celebrated shrines and a UNESCO World Heritage site. Return to Paris and enjoy this evening's farewell dinner. (Breakfast, Dinner)

DAY 11: Paris. Your tour ends with breakfast this morning. (Breakfast)

OPTIONAL EXCURSIONS

Please Note! The following excursions are examples only. They are not guaranteed and different ones may be added.



Availability is subject to sufficient participation, weather conditions, seasonal suitability, days of operation, group interests, and general feasibility. The approximate value listed gives you a general idea of what you can expect to pay but the actual price may vary.

Lourdes: Gavarnie and the Pyrenees. With its historic 12th-century church and Heas Chapel, Gavarnie is a picturesque rural mountain village set in the natural landscape of the Pyrenees and is a World Heritage site. Approximate value: \$90 per person

Paris: Dinner and night tour. A perfect introduction to Paris! After a full-course dinner with choices of typical French dishes, drinks included, your tour director will show you the City of Lights. Approximate value: \$150 per person

Paris: Louvre (closed on Tuesday, public holidays, and Sundays to groups). Let your guide bring to life the most celebrated treasures of the impressive Louvre museum including the famous "Mona Lisa", the masterpiece of Leonardo Da Vinci. Note: This excursion is not available to groups on Tuesdays, public holidays, and Sundays. Approximate value: \$80 per person

Paris: Versailles (closed on Monday). A short journey from Paris with your local guide to the lavish 17th-century classical palace built by Sun King, Louis XIV, with its magnificent state apartments, Hall of Mirrors, and the Royal Chapel. Time to stroll through parts of the elegant 250-acre gardens. Note: This excursion is not available on Mondays and public holidays. Approximate value: \$120 per person

HIGHLIGHTS

Paris: Welcome and farewell dinners; guided sightseeing, visit the Basilica of Sacre Coeur, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Shrine, the St. Vincent de Paul Shrine, and Notre Dame Cathedral

Lisieux: Visit Les Buissonnets, family home of St. Therese; the basilica; St. Peter's Cathedral; and the Carmelite Convent

Paris-Lourdes: By high-speed train. Please note: In the rare event that the train is unavailable, alternative transportation will be provided.

Lourdes: Guided walking tour, visit the grotto, the Our Lady of Lourdes Shrine, and St. Bernadette's birthplace and family home

Carcassonne: Walk through the medieval town

Avignon: Walk around the walled city

Paray-le-Monial: Visit the Chapel of the Apparitions and the Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Nevers: Visit St. Gildard

Chartres: Visit the cathedral

INCLUDED: 10 hotel nights (see list below) with buffet breakfast; tours, visits, excursions as listed above; meals as specified; entrance fees when applicable



NOT INCLUDED (air-inclusive, land-only or cruise-only): Federal inspection fees for the Federal U.S. Customs and Immigrations; International Air Transportation tax; agricultural tax; other per person taxes imposed by government entities: port taxes; passports; visas and vaccinations; tips to your Tour or Cruise Director, Local Host, driver, Local Guides, and/or ships' crew; gratuities on ferries, trains, and cruise ships; laundry; telephone; minibar; alcohol, beverages, and food outside of the contracted menu as presented at a hotel or restaurant (these extra items will be billed to you before leaving the hotel, ship, or restaurant); additional excursions and activities not listed as 'included' in the itinerary; airport transfers on non-qualifying flights; portage at airports and train stations; Travel Protection premiums; excess baggage fees; and all other items of a personal nature.

HOTELS: Paris: Novotel Paris Tour Eiffel, **Lourdes:** Grand Hotel Moderne, **Avignon** Mercure Cité des Papes, **Nevers:** Mercure Pont de Loire, **Paris:** Pullman Paris Rive Gauche. If there is no availability, similar hotels will be substituted.

2012 DATES AND PRICES, per person, in U.S. dollars (subject to change at any time)

U.S. Departure	Tour Start	Return	Price (land only)
Apr 3	Apr 4	Apr 14	\$2,749
May 29	May 30	Jun 9	\$2,749
June 26	June 27	Jul 7	\$2,749
Jul 31	Aug 1	Aug 11	\$2,749
Aug 28	Aug 29	Sep 8	\$2,769
Sep 27	Sep 28	Oct 8	\$2,799

Single room supplement: Add \$839

Extra nights per person in Paris: in single room \$275, in twin room \$148

Please Note!

- April 3 departure - Good Friday in Paris
- September 27 departure starts on Friday in Paris
- September 27 departure - Feast of St. Therese in Lisieux (October 1)

Guaranteed air-inclusive prices: Air is only available to passengers traveling from the United States and only available when booked in conjunction with a land vacation. An additional \$250 non-refundable deposit is required for air booked in conjunction with any land vacation (i.e., air-inclusive vacation.) Once your airfare is confirmed and the tour operator has received your full air and land deposit, your air-inclusive vacation price is guaranteed.

Additional Information:

- Taxes and fees are subject to change and are not guaranteed until full land and air deposit are received.
- Departures, itineraries and prices are subject to change.

