

THE SHRINES OF FRANCE

DAY 01 NORTH AMERICA / PARIS Evening departure from North America for the overnight flight to Paris. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

DAY 02 PARIS / LOURDES Upon your arrival in Paris this morning, we connect to the one-hour flight to Lourdes. Arrive in Lourdes about noon and transfer to your hotel. At the foot of the Pyrenees Mountains in southwestern France, nestled between the spectacular mountain river, Gave de Pau, is Lourdes. One of the most important pilgrimage sites for over 140 years, Lourdes is the birthplace of St Bernadette to whom Our Lady appeared in 1858 near the Grotto of Massabielle.

DAYS 3 & 4 LOURDES During your stay in Lourdes you will have a chance to celebrate daily *Mass at the Grotto*, enjoy a video presentation telling the story of Lourdes, and walk in the footsteps of St Bernadette. See *Boly Mill* where St Bernadette was born and the 'Cachot," an abandoned prison where Bernadette's impoverished family lived in humility. Walk the life-sized Stations of the Cross overlooking the holy Grotto. Visit to the *sanctuary and to the Basilica of St Pius X*, the world's largest underground church. Participate in the nightly candlelight processions.

DAY 05 LOURDES / LYON / NEVERS / PARAY LE MONIAL After breakfast, transfer to Pau Airport for the morning flight to Lyon. Depart by motorcoach for Nevers to visit *St Gildard's Convent* to pray before the uncorrupted body of St Bernadette. At the conclusion of the eighteen apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Lourdes, St Bernadette lived for 12 years as a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Nevers, having taken the veil in 1867. Throughout her life she suffered from and eventually died of asthma at the age of 35. You will see *St Bernadette's incorrupt body miraculously preserved since her death in 1879*. Mass at the Chapel. Dinner and overnight in Paray Le Monial.

DAY 06 PARAY LE MONIAL / ARS / LA SALETTE Breakfast, Mass, and a tour of *Paray Le Monial*, where we will visit the birthplace of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Between 1673 and 1675 Our Blessed Lord appeared many times to St Margaret Mary Alacoque at the Visitation Convent. He revealed His Divine Heart aflame with love for humanity and established a feast day to honor his Sacred Heart. We arrive in the little town of *Ars* where St Jean-Marie Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests, spent a great part of his holy life giving powerful sermons and spending up to 17 hours a day in the confessional, sleeping only two hours a night. The charity and love for people of this simple curate of Ars became famous all over the Christian world. He died in 1895 and his incorrupt body lies in repose, along with many relics from this saint who was canonized in 1925. Next we go to La Salette for dinner and overnight.

DAY 07 LA SALETTE / LYON / PARIS Breakfast, *Mass and a tour of La Salette*. La Salette is the site where the Virgin Mary appeared in 1846 to two shepherds, Melanie Matthew and Maximin Gird. Our Lady appeared to these shepherds, lamenting the lack of observance of Sundays and the profaning of her Son's holy name. A spring forever marks the spot where the Virgin appeared and where millions of pilgrims come to drink the fresh spring water and to pray. In 1996 La Salette celebrated the 150th anniversary of Our Lady's first apparition. Return to Lyon in the afternoon for the TGV (high speed) train to Paris. Transfer to hotel, dinner, and overnight.

DAY 08 PARIS / LISIEUX / PARIS After breakfast we travel to the town of *Lisieux*, the home of St Therese whom Pope Pius X called 'the Greatest Saint of Modern Times. Visit the *Basilica Cathedral of St Peter and Les Buissonets*, her family home. On display are relics, clothing and personal objects belonging to the "Little Flower". View the statue depicting the Virgin Mary who smiled at St. Therese during an ecstasy before curing her illness. Pray at the *Carmel Chapel*. Return to Paris for dinner and overnight.

DAY 09 PARIS After breakfast we take a guided tour of this beautiful city, visiting the magnificent *Notre Dame Cathedral, the Church of the Sacre Coeur and the Church of St. Vincent De Paul*. This afternoon will visit the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal to celebrate Mass. View the incorrupt body of St. Catherine Labouret whose guardian angel led her to the chapel where the Blessed Virgin displayed a vision of the miraculous medal and later the green scapular. The Virgin promised bountiful graces to all who wore these. Dinner and overnight.

DAY 10 PARIS / NORTH AMERICA Transfer to the airport in time for you return flight home. Arrival in the afternoon, local time.