

Iberian Peninsula Pilgrimage

Spain, France, and Portugal

15 Days - October 28 – November 11, 2024

Hosted by

Father Dominic and Paula Spears

Air* & Land cost: **\$5850** per person sharing Double/Twin & **\$6810** single occupancy
Land only: **\$4454** per person sharing Double/Twin & **\$5416** single occupancy



Day 1 Monday October 28th: Depart USA

Today our adventure begins as we depart the US and arrive in Madrid, Spain.

Day 2 Tuesday October 29th: Welcome to Madrid

We arrive in Madrid Airport this morning where we are met by our guide in Arrivals. After boarding the coach we will begin a **tour of Madrid**, seeing several sights (some from the coach, some walking), including the Royal Palace, Almudena Cathedral, Basilica of San Francisco el Grande, Retiro Park, Campo del Moro gardens, Art Boulevard, Cibeles Fountain, Town Hall, Alcala Gate, Las Ventas Bullring, and many more! Afterwards, we will make our way to our hotel for check in and we will enjoy a lovely welcome dinner together tonight.



Ganivet Hotel, Madrid.....(D).

Day 3 Wednesday October 30th: Trip to Toledo



This morning after a delicious breakfast, our driver will meet us in the hotel lobby, and we will be provided with a full- day excursion to **Toledo**. We will be greeted by a local tour guide on arrival in Toledo and who will take us on a tour of Toledo to visit sites such as **Toledo Cathedral and Treasury** which is dedicated to Virgin Mary in her ascension to the heavens. Besides its historical and artistic value, this Cathedral has a theological meaning as a reference for the pastoral life of the diocese priests and loyal laypersons. We return to Madrid where

you are free for the rest of the day and evening.

Ganivet Hotel, Madrid.....(B).

Day 4 Thursday October 31st: Depart Madrid to Barcelona

Once we finish breakfast this morning, we will depart Madrid and make our way to **Barcelona** by train. After a busy day traveling, we will check into our hotel and have some free time for lunch before venturing out on a half-day tour of Barcelona! We'll see Passeig de Gracia with Antoni Gaudí's iconic buildings, Plaza Catalunya, Montjuic with the Olympic Stadium, Ramblas, and tour the **Basilica of the Sagrada Familia**! We'll then have the rest of the afternoon and evening to enjoy dinner in Barcelona at our leisure.



Silken St. Gervasi Hotel, Barcelona.....(B).

Day 5 Friday November 1st: Day Tour of Montserrat



After a hearty breakfast this morning, our tour guide will meet us in the hotel lobby for today's adventure. Our guide will accompany us on a half- day tour to **Montserrat**, a spectacularly beautiful Benedictine monk mountain retreat about one hour Northwest from Barcelona by train.

We will be taking the *Cremallera Funicular* (mountain train) to the top of the mountain where we will see beautiful sites such as the Montserrat Monastery. Not only is **Montserrat Monastery** of significant religious importance but the natural beauty surrounding the monastery is simply breathtaking. If you enjoy walking, there are also some interesting walks through the mountains where you will experience magnificent views of some of the most unusual rock formations in the whole of Catalonia. We'll then return to Barcelona, where you'll have the afternoon at your leisure before we meet for a traditional **Flamenco Show and Dinner**.

Silken St. Gervasi Hotel, Barcelona.....(B, D)

Day 6 Saturday November 2nd: Barcelona to Lourdes

This morning after a delicious breakfast in our hotel, we will continue our journey across the border to **Lourdes in France** - the most famous healing shrine in the world. We will stop for lunch along the way. Spiritual energy breathes through this small village in the foothills of the **Pyrenees mountains**. To date, there have been 70 confirmed miracles at Lourdes since the first apparition appeared to a 14-year-old peasant girl in 1858. Upon arrival we will check into our hotel and enjoy dinner together,



Hotel Beau Site, Lourdes.....(B,D)

Day 7 Sunday November 3rd: Exploration Day Lourdes

After breakfast this morning, our guide for the day will meet us in the hotel lobby and we will begin our day tour of the market town of **Lourdes**. We will enjoy a visit to the **Basilica of St Pius X**. Hidden beneath the Boulevard Pere Remi Sempe lies the massive underground Basilica. This architecturally controversial church was completed in 1957 and consecrated a year later by a Roman cardinal. The city of Lourdes is one of the most-visited Catholic pilgrimage sites in the world as it was the area in which the Virgin Mary appeared to a local peasant girl, who would go on to attain sainthood. The staggeringly large subterranean church was subsequently built to house the immense crowds that flood the city on feast dates and other important Catholic holy days. People come to Lourdes for water, to drink from the fountains, but also to take it back home with them. This process began just after 25th February 1858, the day on which the Virgin Mary told Saint Bernadette where to dig to find the spring. It is at this spring, which flows on the left side at the base of the Grotto, where Our Lady invites us to come “to drink and wash ourselves”. After this spiritual experience we will take some time to relax and enjoy our surroundings before we have dinner on our own this evening.

Hotel Beau Site, Lourdes.....(B)

Day 8 Monday November 4th: Lourdes to Oviedo

Once we finish breakfast this morning, we will depart Lourdes and continue our journey to **Torrelavega** where we will stop here for lunch on our own. Torrelavega's historical and artistic heritage includes the monument ensemble of Viérnoles, with palaces and mansions from the 17th to the 19th centuries. After we have spent some time exploring this wonderful city, we will continue to our final stop of the day, **Oviedo**. We will check into our hotel here before taking some time to explore the city. From narrow cobblestone streets steeped in history, to mouthwatering hearty food, and an incredible amount of public art scattered around the city, Oviedo has something for everyone to enjoy. Dinner together in our hotel restaurant tonight.

Hotel Sercotel Ciudad de Oviedo.....(B,D).

Day 9 Tuesday November 5th: Oviedo to Santiago de Compostela



This morning enjoy some time to relax after breakfast before we take the bus to our next destination – ***Santiago de Compostela***. This beautiful city is renowned for its fine dining and modern art filled streets in its old town where you will find the traditional ‘tapas’ and feel the real traditional Spanish atmosphere. Beyond the winding streets and the stone mansions, the modern side of Santiago can be seen around the university area, in its art galleries, and above all in two places: the Galician Contemporary Art Centre and Cidade da

Cultura by the New York architect Peter Eisenman, one of the most surprising examples of Galicia’s contemporary architecture. Feel free to spend the afternoon appreciating this charming city. Enjoy dinner on your own tonight.

Exe Area Central, Santiago de Compostela.....(B)

Day 10 Wednesday November 6th: “Way of Saint James” Day Tour

After a filling breakfast this morning, we will meet the local guide in our hotel lobby for today’s wonderful exploration. We will enjoy a guided tour of the ***“Way of Saint James”***. Saint James wanted to travel to the end of the world. The end of Spain here in Santiago de Compostela is considered the end of the world. We will experience the ***Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela*** – the reputable burial place of Saint James, one of the apostles of Jesus Christ. Here we will witness the remains of St. James kept in a silver urn, alongside those of his disciples Saint Athanasius and Saint Theodore. This afternoon, you are free to explore and enjoy the city at your own leisure. Dinner on your own tonight.



Exe Area Central, Santiago de Compostela.....(B)

Day 11 Thursday November 7th: Santiago de Compostela to Fatima



This morning after breakfast, we will depart Fatima and make a stop in Porto. We will meet the local guide here who will provide a one-hour ***walking tour of Porto*** where we will see its unique preserved medieval structure and architecture. Its winding streets weave together layers of history and heritage, from its identity as the proud birthplace of Henry the Navigator to notes of Brazilian influence, to traces of opulence from Portugal’s peak as a world trading power. We will enjoy a stunning 6 bridges ***cruise along the river Douro*** viewing the many

beautiful landscapes and red-roofed buildings of the town of Ribeira and Vila Nova de Gaia, and of course the many beautiful bridges the city has to offer.

We then ***continue to Fatima***, our last stop of the day. We will enjoy a group dinner in our hotel or a local restaurant here tonight.

Hotel 4 Estacoes, Fatima.....(B,D)

Day 12 Friday November 8th: Day Tour of Fatima

After a hearty breakfast this morning, we will be greeted by our guide in the hotel lobby where we will be provided with a full day ***Pilgrims tour of Fatima***. Fátima is one of the most important shrines to the Virgin Mary in the world. Our first stop is to the village of Aljustrel, the birthplace of the three little shepherd children that stated the Virgin Mary had appeared to them. The event, on Oct. 13, 1917, is known as the Miracle of the Sun and was attended by upwards of 40,000 people. A marble pillar with a statue of Our Lady marks the exact spot in the Chapel of Apparitions, and millions of pilgrims make the journey to see it yearly. We will visit Basilica de Nossa Senhora do Rosario de Fatima where we will enjoy a mass and visit the sanctuary.



We will gather for dinner this evening at our hotel or a local restaurant.

Hotel 4 Estacoes, Fatima.....(B,D)

Day 13 Saturday November 9th: Fatima to Lisbon



This morning after breakfast, we will depart Fatima and make our way to our final destination, ***Lisbon***. On our way we will make a stop in Santarem for a guided walking tour. The Eucharistic miracle of Santarém, together with that of Lanciano, is considered among the most important Eucharistic miracles. Numerous studies and canonical analyses were carried out on the relics. The Host changed into bleeding Flesh and Blood flowed out of the Blessed Sacrament. Both relics are preserved to this day in the Church of St. Stephen in Santarém.

We will then continue to Lisbon this afternoon. After checking into our hotel this evening, you can spend the evening as you wish in one of the many beautiful restaurants of your choice!

Hotel Gat Rossio, Lisbon.....(B)

Day 14 Sunday November 10th: Exploration Day Lisbon

Rise and Shine for our final day here in Portugal. After breakfast this morning we will enjoy a ***leisurely day in Lisbon*** – one of Europe’s oldest cities filled with beautiful tiles, historic buildings, and lively culture. If you really want to see the best tilework in the city check out the Museu Nacional do Azulejo, also known as the ***National Tile Museum***. Explore the ***Jeronimos Monastery*** containing some of the most incredible architecture in Europe. The Monastery along with the Belém Tower are two of the most visited landmarks in Lisbon. Worth a visit!



We’ll then meet in the lobby to meet for our farewell evening together, where we will be treated to a ***live Fado Show dinner!***

**Hotel Gat Rossio,
Lisbon.....(B,D)**

Day 15 Monday November 11th: Depart Lisbon for USA

After breakfast this morning a private coach will pick us up for our transfer to the airport. As we depart, we take with us the many beautiful memories and bid farewell to the beautiful countries of Spain, France and Portugal.



Hotel List:

October 29, 30 [Ganivet Hotel](https://www.hotelganivet.com/en/) (3 Star) Phone: +34 913 65 36 00 – 2 Nights
<https://www.hotelganivet.com/en/>

October 31, Nov 1 Silken St. Gervasi Hotel, Barcelona (3 Star) Phone +34 932 53 17 40 – 2 Nights
https://www.hoteles-silken.com/es/hotel-st-gervasi-barcelona/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=google-my-business

Nov 2, 3 Hotel Beau Site, Lourdes (3 Star) Phone +33 5 62 94 04 08 – 2 Nights
<https://www.lourdeshotelbeausite.com/fr/hotel-lourdes-proche-sanctuaire>

Nov 4 Sercotel Ciudad de Oviedo, Oviedo (4 Star) Phone +34 985 22 22 24 – 1 Night
https://www.sercotelhoteles.com/es/hotel-ciudad-de-oviedo?utm_source=google&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=metasearch-links

Nov 5,6 Hotel Exe Area Central, Santiago de Compostela (3 Star) Phone +34 981 55 22 22 – 2 Nights
https://www.eurostarshotels.com/exe-area-central.html?referer_code=lb0gg00yx&utm_source=google&utm_medium=business&utm_campaign=lb0gg00yx

Nov 7,8 Hotel 4 Estacoes, Fatima (3 Star) Phone +351 249 532 240 – 2 Nights
<http://hotel4estacoes.com/>

Nov 9, 10 Hotel Gat Rossio, Lisbon (3 Star) Phone +351 21 347 8300 – 2 Nights
<https://hotelgatrossio.com/en>