



# Marian Shrines & the Way of St. James

14 days | 16 days with Lisbon extension

Follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims as you make your way through France, Spain, and Portugal on this immersive tour. As you go, admire some of the holiest sites in Christendom and step inside soaring churches where people have prayed for centuries. From bustling Toulouse and historic Lourdes to the ancient streets of Santiago de Compostela, spirituality comes to the forefront on this memorable journey.



## Your tour package includes

- 12 nights in handpicked hotels
- 12 breakfasts
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 7 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach

## Included highlights

- Basilica of St. Sernin
- Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes
- The Way of St. James
- Burgos Cathedral
- Santiago de Compostela Cathedral
- Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain and paved roads, with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

15–38

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Toulouse today.

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## Toulouse → 2 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Toulouse

*Included meals: welcome dinner*

Welcome to France! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Toulouse

*Included meals: breakfast*

Set out with a local guide for a walking tour of Toulouse.

- Explore the Place du Capitole, a square lined with grand government buildings
  - Browse fresh flowers as you stroll through the outdoor market (*seasonal*)
  - Step inside the Basilica of Saint-Sernin, a UNESCO World Heritage site
  - Admire the imposing Church of the Jacobins, the city's historic Bernuy Mansion, and the Hôtel-Dieu Saint-Jacques
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## Lourdes → 2 nights

### Day 4: Transfer to Lourdes & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast*

Transfer to Lourdes, France's most sacred Christian pilgrimage site, for a guided sightseeing tour.

- Visit the houses of Bernadette
- Enter the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes to see the Rosary Basilica and the Grotto of Massabielle, a healing site where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared
- Step inside the Basilica of Saint Pius X, completed in 1957

Enjoy a free evening to attend the Marian Procession, which has occurred every night since 1872, ending at a mass in the Grotto of the Apparition.

### Day 5: Free day in Lourdes

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Spend a free day in Lourdes. If you choose, attend an international mass in the Basilica of St. Pius X during the morning. This afternoon, you may spend free time attending the Blessed Sacrament Procession at an open-air altar.

*Please note: The procession lasts one hour. In the event of inclement weather, the procession will take place inside the Basilica of St. Pius X.*

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

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## Zaragoza → 1 night

### Day 6: Zaragoza via Jaca

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Make your way to Zaragoza, Spain, driving along a French portion of the Way of St. James in the Pyrenees Mountains as you go. Stop in the Spanish town of Jaca for free time before arriving in Zaragoza, the capital of the historic Aragon region.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

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## Burgos → 2 nights

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Zaragoza

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join a local guide for a tour of Zaragoza.

- See the Plaza de las Catedrales and La Seo, an architecturally impressive cathedral
- Enter the Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar, a major pilgrimage center that was built after a Marian apparition appeared on the bank of the Ebro River

This afternoon, transfer to Burgos, another important city along the Way of St. James.

### Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Burgos

*Included meals: breakfast*

Join a local guide for a sightseeing tour of Burgos.

- Stroll through the city center and take in the beauty of Burgos Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site
- Step inside the enormous Gothic structure to admire the architecture of its chapels
- See the tombs of El Cid and his wife, both buried in the cathedral in 1919

Enjoy a free afternoon in Burgos or add an excursion.

+ Burgos & the Way of St. James Walk

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## León → 1 night

### Day 9: Transfer to León & sightseeing tour

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

This morning, continue on to León for a guided walking tour.

- View Plaza Mayor and the 14th-century Palace of Count Luna
  - Admire the Palacio de los Guzmanes and the striking Casa de los Botines, designed by famous architect Antoni Gaudí
  - Step inside León Cathedral, which was built over ancient Roman baths
  - Enter the Romanesque Basílica de San Isidoro, which dates back to the 11th century
- Sit down for an included dinner.
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## Santiago de Compostela → 2 nights

### Day 10: Transfer to Santiago de Compostela

*Included meals: breakfast*

Travel to Santiago de Compostela, the UNESCO-listed destination of medieval pilgrims. Stop along the way at the Monte de Gozo, or "Hill of Joy," which is the site where pilgrims can first look at Santiago de Compostela Cathedral in the distance.

Spend a free afternoon in Santiago de Compostela or add excursions.

+ Melide & the Way of St. James Walk  
+ Traditional Galician Dinner

### Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Santiago de Compostela

*Included meals: breakfast*

Walk through Santiago de Compostela, a town that once ranked just behind Jerusalem and Rome as one of Christendom's most important pilgrimage sites.

- Stroll along the ancient city's narrow streets and stop at Parque de la Alameda
- Enter the Gothic Santiago de Compostela Cathedral, which marks the end of the Way of St. James

Enjoy free time in Santiago de Compostela or add an excursion.

+ Cape Finisterre Coastal Pilgrimage

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## Fátima → 2 nights

### Day 12: Transfer to Fátima

*Included meals: breakfast*

Cross the border into Portugal as you journey to Fátima. Enjoy free time or attend an afternoon mass or evening candlelight rosary procession.

### Day 13: Sightseeing tour of Fátima

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Join a local guide for a tour of Fátima, the famous Catholic site where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared six times to three young shepherds.

- Step inside the Houses of Jacinta to learn more about the three Secrets of Fátima
- Enter the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima and explore its grotto

Later, celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner.

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## Flight Home

### Day 14: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the Lisbon airport for your flight home or continue your journey in the Portuguese capital.

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### + Lisbon extension

Continue your trip and keep exploring some of Portugal's most important sacred sites. With stops in the cities of Tomar and Santarém, along with a sightseeing tour of Lisbon, it's the perfect addition to your journey.

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## Lisbon → 2 nights

### Day 14: Lisbon via Tomar & Santarém

*Included meals: breakfast*

Continue on to Lisbon, making two stops along the way.

- Join a local guide during a visit to the city of Tomar, where you'll enter the UNESCO-listed Convent of Christ
- Enjoy a brief visit to Santarém, a city located on the Portuguese Way of St. James

Enjoy a free afternoon in the city or add an excursion.

+ Fado Show & Dinner

### Day 15: Sightseeing tour of Lisbon

*Included meals: breakfast*

Get to know the Portuguese capital on a tour with a local guide.

- Admire views of the city from Eduardo VII Park and pass the Praça Marquês de Pombal as you travel along Avenida da Liberdade
- Stop at the waterfront to discover the city's maritime heritage at the Monument to the Discoveries and Tower of Belém
- Enter the church at Jerónimos Monastery, built to honor voyagers
- Walk from Praça do Comércio into the Alfama district
- Step inside Santo António Church, the site where many believe Saint Anthony of Padua was born

This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.

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## Flight Home

### Day 16: Departure

*Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)*

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/SJM](https://goaheadtours.ca/SJM) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 8: Burgos & the Way of St. James Walk

\$89CAD/\$99CAD\* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)

For centuries, the revered route to the final resting place of St. James has been traversed by countless pilgrims. Today, follow in their footsteps as you make your way along a 3.7-mile portion of the trail, beginning at San Juan de Ortega for a visit to the Santuario de San Juan de Ortega. Pass through beautiful forest landscape as you travel next to the small village of Agés. Here, spend time visiting the local cafe and admiring the quaint town. Then continue on your journey to Atapuerca, the UNESCO heritage site known for its archaeological sites. Spend time in the town before transferring back to your hotel. Please note: This excursion is walking-intensive and takes place on mostly flat terrain with some hills. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat are all recommended as the route does not offer much shade.

Please note: The weather in autumn and winter can be cold and humid.

## Extension excursion options

### Day 14: Fado Show & Dinner

\$145CAD/\$155CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Spend your evening at a Lisbon tavern listening to fado. Derived from the Latin word fatum—meaning “prophecy” or “fate”—fado is Portugal’s national musical treasure. Fado’s traditional theme is saudade, a word that doesn’t quite translate to English but conveys a sense of both nostalgia and longing. Dinner is included during this memorable musical evening. Please note: This excursion typically ends around 11pm.

## Day 10: Melide & the Way of St. James Walk

\$105CAD/\$115CAD\* (4.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Set off from Santiago de Compostela and make your way to the town of Melide, which has been a stop along the Way of St. James since the 10th century. With a local guide leading the way, follow in the footsteps of countless pilgrims as you make your way along a 3-mile portion of the time-worn Galician path to the town of Boente. As you go, stroll through lush forest and cross medieval bridges before returning to Santiago de Compostela. Please note: This excursion is walking-intensive and takes place on mostly flat terrain with some hills. Sunglasses, sunscreen, and a hat are all recommended as the route does not offer much shade.

## Day 10: Traditional Galician Dinner

\$125CAD/\$135CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)

For a true taste of Galicia, sit down to a succulent dinner at a local restaurant in Santiago de Compostela. Savor the freshest seafood and meat specialties Spain has to offer as you choose from a variety of menu options. As you dine, enjoy some of the region’s finest wines including Ribiero, Godello, or Albariño. At the end of the meal, observe the preparation ritual of Queimada, a drink of distilled spirits blended with herbs, fruits, and spices.

## Day 11: Cape Finisterre Coastal Pilgrimage

\$105CAD/\$115CAD\* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

Join a local guide as you make your way to the Galician Coast, stopping at the Río Xallas waterfalls in Mirador de Ézaro on the way. Arrive in the traditional fishing village of Fisterra, where you’ll enjoy free time to explore. Then, continue on toward Cape Finisterre, the final destination for pilgrims on the Way of St. James. End your excursion taking in picturesque views of the coastal cliffs and famous lighthouse.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)