

12 Day Pilgrimage to Portugal, Spain & France

Special visit to Avila for the 500th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Theresa of Avila

Visiting Santarem, Fatima, Aljustrel, Valinhos, Braga,
Santiago de Compostela, Leon, Lourdes, Madrid & Avila

July 7th – 18th, 2015

YOUR TOUR INCLUDES:

- Round trip air from New York
- First Class Hotels
- Breakfast & Dinner Daily
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guide
- Sightseeing as per itinerary
- Portage of one piece of luggage at hotels
- All taxes and service charges
- Daily Mass and Rosary

Pilgrimage Price: \$ 3,599.00 per person double/triple \$ 3,999.00 Single

Tue, July 7th: New York/Lisbon - Depart New York on your overnight flight to Lisbon.



Wed, July 8th: Lisbon/Santarem/Fatima - Upon arrival in **Lisbon**, we are met by our guide and transferred to Fatima. En route we stop at Santarem where we will have Mass and have the opportunity to venerate the “Eucharistic Host.” The story of the miracle centers on an early 13th century woman with an unfaithful husband. Desperate to regain his faithfulness and save her marriage, she consulted a sorceress. The sorceress said she would cure the husband's infidelity for the price of a consecrated host. After much deliberation, the woman decided to commit the sacrilege. The next time she attended Mass at the 12th century Church of St. Stephen, she took the consecrated host from her mouth, wrapped it in a veil and headed quickly for the door. But before she had taken more than a few steps the host began to bleed and people thought she had cut her hand and attempted to help, but she ran out of the church.

Back at home, she threw the bloody host in a trunk in her bedroom. Her husband did not come home until late, as usual. In the middle of the night, they were both awoken by a mysterious light emanating from the trunk. The woman confessed to her husband what she had done and they both knelt in repentance before the miracle. The next morning, the couple told the parish priest what had happened. The priest placed the miraculous host in a wax container and returned it to the Church of St. Stephen. Word spread quickly, and the townspeople hurried to the church to see the miracle. The next time the priest opened the tabernacle that contained the miraculous host, another miracle occurred. The wax container was found broken into pieces, and the host

was enclosed in a crystal pyx. This pyx was placed in a silver monstrance, where it can be seen today.

After an investigation, the Catholic Church approved the miracle. The Church of St. Stephen was renamed the Church of the Holy Miracle, and it is one of Portugal's most visited pilgrimage sites. St. Francis Xavier visited the Church before setting off for missionary work in India.

After our visit, we continue to Fatima. Upon arrival in Fatima we check into our hotel. After time to rest, we visit the Capelhina where Our Lady appeared and then on to the Basilica to see the Tombs of Sister Lucia, Blessed Jacinta and Francisco.

Thu, July 9th: Fatima/Aljustrel/Valinhos/Fatima - This morning we tour **Aljustrel** where we visit the homes of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco and Sister Lucia and perhaps meet some of their relatives. Then on to **Valinhos** where Our Lady appeared to the children in August 1917 and where the Angel appeared to the children in 1916. We continue to the Parish Church of Fatima where the children and their parents received the sacraments. We return to Fatima for a free afternoon of private devotion.



Fri, July 10th: Fatima/Batalha/Alcobaca/Nazare/Fatima - Morning departure to **Batalha** to see the Monastery of Santa Maria da Vitória which was built in answer to a vow made by King John I to the Virgin Mary. Elected by UNESCO as a **World Heritage site**, it is a grand monument to the closing phase of Portuguese Gothic architecture. Next we visit the Monastery of **Alcobaca** in the fertile valley formed by the Alcoa and Baça's Rivers. King Afonso Henriques built the monastery to fulfill a vow he made to the Cistercian Order, when he conquered Santarém from the Moors. Our last stop is **Nazare** where, on hot days, the ancient local fishing art is brought to life, with the skipper calling the men down to the sea. The men run down to the beach and help push the "candil" - a small fishing boat - down to the sea. In the past this was a daily scene on Nazaré beach. Nowadays the fishermen still mend their nets on the beach, tell fishing yarns and prepare their equipment for bait fishing. After lunch, on our own, we return to Fatima.

Sat, July 11th: Fatima/Braga/Santiago de Compostela - Morning departure to **Santiago de Compostela**. En route we stop at **Braga**. In 1722 the Archbishop of Braga commissioned the construction of a Sacred Way, so the faithful could walk the Stations of the Cross for penance and contemplation. It was completed in 1811. Although it has no associations with any visions or saints, it has been a popular place of pilgrimage ever since. The Sacred Way is a Baroque double staircase with several switchbacks. The numerous landings and the grounds of the sanctuary are filled with interesting gardens, grottoes, small chapels, sculptures, and allegorical fountains. The first fountain symbolizes the wounds of Christ, the next five the senses, and the final three the virtues. After our visit we continue to Santiago de Compostela.

Sun, July 12th: Santiago de Compostela - Today we have a tour of Santiago de Compostela with a special *visit of the Cathedral and viewing of the relics of St. James*.

Shortly after the discovery of the Tomb of St. James in 819 AD, a small church was built over the tomb. This church was destroyed by al-Mansur's Moorish army in 997, though Almansor left

the relics of the Apostle undisturbed. He did, however, force Santiago's citizens to carry the bells of the tower to the mosque in Cordoba (they have since been returned).

The sacred relics of *St. James lie beneath the cathedral's high altar in a silver coffer*; they can be viewed from the crypt. In the cathedral's Chapel of the Reliquary is a gold crucifix, dated 874, containing a piece of the *True Cross of Jesus*.

Mon, July 13th: Santiago de Compostela/Leon - Morning departure to **Leon** to visit the Basilica of San Isidrio to see the Chalice of Our Lord. Do to the sudden global interest in the chalice of Doña Urraca we will make an overnight stop in Leon to view the Chalice. According to an article in the New York Post, "parchments were found in the Basilica that told a tale of how Muslims took the sacred cup from the Christian community in Jerusalem to Cairo. It was then given to an emir on Spain's Mediterranean coast in return for help he gave to Egyptians who were suffering a famine."

The historians' research has been backed up by scientific dating, which estimates that the cup in question was made between 200 BC and 100 AD. The scientists admit the first 400 years of the cup's history remain a mystery, and they can't prove the chalice ever actually touched Christ's lips. But they insist there is no doubt that this is the cup that early Christians revered as the chalice used at the Last Supper. "The only chalice that could be considered the chalice of Christ is that which made the journey to Cairo and then from Cairo to León — and that is this chalice," said Torres, who teaches medieval history at the University of León.

Tue, July 14th: Leon/Lourdes - Morning departure to **Lourdes**. Upon arrival we check into our hotel. After dinner, we join the evening *Candlelight Procession*.

Wed, July 15th: Lourdes - Today we visit the places associated with St. Bernadette. On 11 February 1858, 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, claimed a beautiful lady appeared to her in the remote Grotto of Massabielle. This lady later identified herself as "the Immaculate Conception" and the faithful believed her to be the Blessed Virgin Mary. The lady appeared 18 times, and by 1859 thousands of pilgrims were visiting Lourdes. A statue of Our Lady of Lourdes was erected at the site in 1864 and later the beautiful Basilica of Our Lady was erected. Approximately 5,000,000 pilgrims visit Lourdes each year.

Thu, July 16th: Lourdes/Madrid - Morning departure to Madrid. Upon arrival we have a *Panorama of Madrid*.

Fri, July 17th: Avila 500th Anniversary of the Birth of St. Teresa of Avila - Morning departure to **Avila**. Today we visit the city of Avila, home of St. Therese of Avila. Teresa of Ávila, also called Saint Teresa of Jesus was born on March 28th, 1515. She was a prominent Spanish mystic, Roman Catholic saint, Carmelite nun, an author of the Counter Reformation and theologian of contemplative life through mental prayer. She was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and is considered to be a founder of the Discalced Carmelites along with John of the Cross. Pious Catholic beliefs also associates Saint Teresa with the esteemed religious image of Infant Jesus of Prague with claims of former ownership and devotion.

Sat, July 18th: Madrid/USA - Departure to Madrid airport for our return flight to the USA.

Reservation Form

Tour No. PSF0707		
Name (as it appears on your passport):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Email address:	
Will your room be a: () single (limited) () double () triple		
Name of Roommate:		
Are you a US citizen? () Yes () No Date of Birth		
Passport No.	Expiration Date	
Contact in the USA	Telephone No.	Relationship
<p>Please return this form with your check to:</p> <p>LITTLE FLOWER TOURS & TRAVEL, LTD.</p> <p>145 Fieldstone Road, Staten Island, New York 10314</p> <p>☎ 718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373</p> <p>Website: www.littleflowerpilgrimages.com</p> <p>Email: susan@littleflowerpilgrimages.com</p> <p>A \$700.00 DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING</p> <p>FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE April 25, 2015</p>		
<p>TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Cancellation made by passengers. Of the \$700.00 deposit, \$300.00 is non-refundable in case of cancellation. 70 days to 46 days a \$700.00 penalty is imposed. 45 days to 16 days a \$700.00 penalty PLUS any penalty imposed by the airlines and hotels. 15 days or less may result in loss of entire cost, depending on what we can recover. Once travel has commenced, no refunds for unused portions can be made. TRAVEL INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE AND ADVISABLE If you have a pre-existing condition, it is important that you take Travel Insurance within 10 days of booking.</p>		
Signature:	Date:	

Credit card () MasterCard () Visa () American Express	
Account #:	Expiration date:
Name (as it appears on your card)	
Billing Address:	
Amount to be charged: \$	
Signature:	Date: