

ITINERARY

Day 01

Depart LAX to begin your pilgrimage journey through Spain, France and Portugal. This will be a tour you will not soon forget. Prepare for a wonderful journey!!

Day 02

Morning arrival at **Barcelona** airport - Spain, a vital and exciting country. A land of sun-drenched beaches, beautiful women, terraced vineyards, sleepy villages and medieval Moorish architectural jewels. Meet your Tour Manager and transfer with your private deluxe motorcoach to your hotel. Remainder of day at leisure. Dinner at the hotel **D**

Day 03

Morning city tour of **Barcelona** which boasts the most diversified and prosperous economy of any region in Spain. It is ready to show its rich Catalan culture with works by natives and longtime residents - architect of the famed **Sagrada Familia**, Antoni Gaudi; artist Pablo Picasso - Salvador Dali and Joan Miro and of course, the site of the 1992 Olympics. Your tour includes visits to the **Sagrada Familia** (Holy Family Church), masterpiece of Antoni Gaudi, the Gothic Quarter and **Las Rambla** - the most famous pedestrian boulevard lined with bird cages, decorative pavements and flowers stalls. Afternoon tour to **Montserrat Monastery**, high above the city, to view the venerated 12th century statue of **La Moreneta** (the Black Madonna). Legend says the statue was found in a cave in 889. In 1881, she was crowned and declared the "Patron Saint of Catalonia." This Monastery is cared for by the Benedictine Monks who dedicate their lives to prayer and receiving the pilgrims who gather for prayer. Dinner tonight in Barcelona. **BD**

Day 04

Special day to visit the castle at **Carcassonne, France**. Continue via Tarbes (France), arriving late afternoon in **Lourdes, France** the most famous pilgrimage destination in the Christian world dating back to February 11th 1858. Time permitting individuals or as a group you may wish to take part in the inspirational **evening candlelight procession**. Dinner at hotel. **BD**

Day 05

Today, quiet, serene **Lourdes** (on your own) to meditate - reflect at **Our Lady's Shrine**, private devotions, take part in the **miraculous baths**, marvel at the life-size bronze statues, the stations of the cross, visit the beautiful **Basilica** and places associated with the life of **St. Bernadette**. Including Boly Hill, her birthplace, the local Mill - residence of her parents, the "**Cachot**" formerly used as a jail where she lived at the time of the Apparition, the Chapel - her first communion and the Parish Church. Dinner tonight at hotel. **BD**

Day 06

Morning transfer through the French part of "**St. Jacob's Pilgrimage Road**" Enjoy the spectacular ride through the **Pyrenees Mountains**, crossing the border in Sallent de Gallego into **Spain**. Continue southward to Jaca including a visit to the 11th century Cathedral, through the former Kingdom of Navarra arriving in **Pamplona** for a short city tour - made famous by Hemingway in his "The Sun also Rises" and "Fiesta" describing the annual running of the bulls (July 6-14). Dinner at hotel **BD**

Day 07

Morning transfer via **Puente la Reine** with its famous marked bridge to **Logrono** with visit to the Cathedral of St. Domingo da la Calzada. We arrive mid-afternoon in **Burgos**, the city of "El Cid" the **Pearl of Northern Spain**. Enjoy a city tour with a visit to the magnificent **Basilica of Burgos**, one of the largest and most beautiful basilicas in all of Europe. Dinner at hotel. **BD**

Day 08

Morning departure along the "**Street of Churches**" featuring three Gothic style centers - to Fromista - Villacazar de Sirga and Carrion de los Condes, prior to arriving in the 2000 year old city of **Leon** including the Gothic majesty of the Leon Cathedral. Dinner at hotel. **BD**

Day 09

This is our last day of "**St. Jacob's Pilgrimage Road**." Since the 12th century, thousands of Pilgrims have completed the "Camino de Santiago." Among others who have walked this path are St. Francis of Assisi and Pope John Paul II. This morning, as we make our way to the Basilica of Santiago de Compostela, we will travel via Astorga to **Ponferrada** (with visit to its huge "Templer" fortress). Continue to Lugo with a visit to the Cathedral concluding with a tour of **Villafranca**. Arriving late afternoon in **SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA**. Dinner at hotel. **BD**

Day 10

Full day in **Santiago de Compostela** - one of the great Shrines of medieval Christendom. The remains of St. James lie beneath the high altar in a silver coffer. His bejeweled bust sits above his grave. We begin the day with a morning city tour including the Barrio Antiquo, Plaza da Quintana, the arcaded Casa de la Cononica. Remainder of the day - highlighted by private devotion at the **Shrine of St. James**, the **Patron Saint of Spain**. Our visit to the Cathedral is a fitting culmination of the pilgrims journey. Dinner tonight at our hotel. **BD**

Day 11

This morning we depart for **Portugal** traveling along the Atlantic Coast to **Coimbra**, situated on a hill overlooking the Mondego River. It is here in a convent in Coimbra that **Sr. Lucia** lives, the eldest of the three children of Fatima. Dinner at hotel. **BD**

Day 12

Full day in **Fatima** to pray and meditate at the Shrine of Our Lady. It is here that Our Lady appeared to three peasant children. Guided tour of the most interesting sights including the **Basilica** with the tombs of the children and the **Chapel of the Apparitions** known as the **Capelinha** - afterwards time on your own to make the Way of the Cross. Built by Hungarian refugees after WWII, the Stations provide a breathtaking view of the Portuguese countryside. Dinner and overnight in **Fatima**. **BD**

Day 13

Early this afternoon we will depart for Lisbon with visit to the Cathedral en route to view the **Miracle of the Bleeding Host** in **Santarem**. Relax and enjoy the ride along the scenic coastline as we make our way to **Lisbon**. Remainder of day at leisure. Dinner tonight at our hotel. **BD**

Day 14

Morning guided tour of **Lisbon**, the capital of Portugal, including the **Basilica of St. Anthony**, the Belem Tower, the Monument to the Discoveries and the "**Vasco da Gama**" **Bridge**, one of the longest bridges in the world, and the longest in all of Europe. Afternoon free for last minute shopping, where you will find bargains galore. Tonight enjoy a **farewell dinner** in local restaurant. **BD**

Day 15

Transfer to **Lisbon** airport for your journey home, with fond memories of the beautiful and historic country-side of **Spain, France and Portugal**; the calm serenity of the magnificent Shrines and Basilicas and wonderful friendships we made along the way. **B**