

The Best Shrines of France

Hosted by

Fr. Mark McGuckin & Fr. James Hughes



Highlights Include:

- The serene town of Lourdes, the birthplace of St. Bernadette
- A day in Liseaux on the feast day of St Thérèse
- Visit iconic Mont St. Michel and the chapel dedicated to St. Michael
- Optional add-on to Ars featuring Sainte Foy & Notre Dame de la Fourviere

September 23 - October 5*, 2025

*Add on to Lyon ends on October 8, 2025



**SPECIAL
TRAVEL
INTERNATIONAL**

NOTES FROM YOUR HOSTS



A grace-filled France adventure awaits in late September / early October 2025, dear friends. Come and join Fr. James Hughes, Fr. Mark McGuckin and our joyous pilgrim group visiting many holy sites, soaking in rich history, and tasting some fancy food throughout the country. From Toulouse to Lourdes to Normandy to Paris to Ars and many other destinations in between, you're not gonna wanna miss this trip! And buckle up for our extra special day in Lisieux on the very feast day of St. Thérèse which ALSO happens to be the 100th Anniversary of her canonization. So many blessings await!

Fr Mark McGuckin and Fr James Hughes

ITINERARY

Day 1 / Tue, Sep 23: DEPART CANADA

Depart for Toulouse

Day 2 / Wed, Sep 24: ARRIVE TOULOUSE

After arrival – check into hotel and free time until dinner (D)

Day 3 / Thu, Sep 25: TOULOUSE – LOURDES

Morning tour of the city including the (Couvent des Jacobins) with the Tomb of St.Thomas Aquinas – in the afternoon travel on to Lourdes (B,D)

Day 4 / Fri, Sep 26: LOURDES

All day at the shrine: attend Mass at the Grotto where the Virgin Mary appeared to St.Bernadette in 1858 – bathe in the healing waters and then visit the birthplace of St.Bernadette (family home during the time of the apparitions) – in the afternoon do the Way of the Cross and attend the blessing of the sick – at night you may join the evening's rosary and candlelight procession (B,D)

Day 5 / Sat, Sep 27: LOURDES – BORDEAUX – NANTES

Departure after breakfast and drive to Bordeaux, time for lunch and then city tour with local guide, ending with visit to the Cathedral of Bordeaux (Relics of St. Simon Stock are there), then we continue on, ending the day in Nantes (B,D)

Day 6 / Sun, Sep 28: NANTES – VANNES – MONT-ST.MICHEL

We travel to the area of Vannes where we visit St.Anne d'Auray (Apparition of St.Anne to Yves) – then across Brittany to famous Mont.St.Michel, where we have time to enjoy the special place including the chapel dedicated to St.Michael (B,D)



Mont St Michel

Day 7 / Mon, Sep 29:

MT.ST.MICHEL – PONTMAIN – CANCALE – MT.ST.MICHEL

This morning we travel to nearby Pontmain to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Pontmain – to spend the day in the place of great importance to Pere Maillard, then we visit Cancale, his birth place, before returning to Mont. St.Michel area (B,D)

Day 8 / Tue, Sep 30:

MT.ST.MICHEL – LANDING BEACHES – LISIEUX

This morning we travel across Normandy and drive along the landing beaches, visiting Courseulles (Juno Beach where Canadians landed on D-Day) and the nearby cemetery before checking into our hotel in Lisieux (B,D)

Day 9 / Wed, Oct 01: LISIEUX

Today we spend in Lisieux, town dedicated to St.Therese, then we travel out to the picturesque village of Honfleur (popular with painters ... , and also. Samuel de Champlain left in 1608 from here for the New World: Canada!) (B,D)

Day 10 / Thu, Oct 02: LISIEUX – ROUEN – PARIS

Travel to Rouen, the historic town, where Jean d'Arc was burnt at the stakes – after time there for lunch, we travel on to the Paris area – check in and dinner (B,D)

Day 11 / Fri, Oct 03: PARIS

City Tour, passing all the main sites and also visit to the Rue du Bac. (B,D)

Day 12 / Sat, Oct 04: PARIS

Full day city tour including Notre Dame, Sacre Coeur, The Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal & Church of Sainte-Marie-Madeleine (B,D)



Notre-Dame de Paris © Sarah Sergent, Paris Tourist Office

ITINERARY continued

Day 13 / Sun, Oct 05: PARIS - VANCOUVER

Breakfast & flight back home (B) OR continue on to Lyon

Optional Add On Tour to Lyon continues below

ADD ON: Day 13 / Sun, Oct 05: PARIS - LYON

Enjoy a ride on the TGV, the fast train bringing us to Lyon (B,D)

ADD ON: Day 14 / Mon, Oct 06: LYON

We visit Sainte Foy (a suburb of Lyon) where Father Maillard is buried, and then we continue with a tour of the Old Town and Notre Dame de la Fourviere – then return to the hotel for dinner (B,D)

ADD ON: Day 15 / Tue, Oct 07: LYON – ARS - LYON

Visit the Museum of Cure d'Ars and the Basilica – return and time before dinner (B)

ADD ON: Day 16 / Wed, Oct 08: LYON - VANCOUVER

Breakfast and flight back home (B)

Minor adjustments may need to be made to our programme due to the scheduling of local events

FLIGHTS & TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Please contact our office for a quote.
- Flights booked with Special Travel include airport transfers
- Our licensed insurance agents can help you with the coverage that will suit your needs

TOUR PACE and FITNESS TO PARTICIPATE

This itinerary includes some walking through historic city centres and to/from sites – easily accomplished if you are comfortable walking a few kilometres at a standard pace.

Travellers with restricted mobility are welcome but may be unable to enjoy all of the walking tour portions or may require taxis.



Stations of the Cross on the Mountain Top overlooking Lourdes France

TOUR COSTS in Canadian Dollars*

Per person, twin-share \$4,500*
Single supplement \$890*

*based on a minimum of 30 travelers

Lyon Add On \$1600**

**approximate price based on twin-share and number of participants looking to add on

INCLUDED

- Accommodation in comfortable 3 star hotels
- Meals as per itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Private air-conditioned coach transportation throughout
- English-speaking guide throughout
- Comprehensive sightseeing including guides and admission fees as per itinerary
- Gratuities for drivers and guides

NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel insurance (please contact our office for a quote)
- Meals not mentioned in the itinerary
- Drinks with meals
- Visas (if required)
- Items of a personal nature

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY

2 Ways to Register

1. Scan the QR Code

OR

2. Visit our website www.sticanada.com/francepilgrim25



Lyon, France

FACTS YOU SHOULD KNOW

RESERVATIONS AND PAYMENT:

- » \$800 per person deposit due at time of booking
- » 2nd installment of \$1,200 pp due by Feb 28, 2025
- » Balance due by July 18, 2025

Tour documents will be sent to you approximately 14 days prior to your trip departure, provided full payment has been received.

TOUR PRICES:

All tour prices for land arrangements are based on rates effective at the time of printing and are expected to be in effect at the time of departure. Should these rates change, it may be necessary to surcharge the price of your vacation. Should the tour price increase by more than 10%, the passenger shall have the right to cancel within seven days of notification without penalty.

CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

Notice of cancellation must be made in writing. The effective cancellation date is the date when written notification is received by Special Travel International (hereafter called STI). **Deposits are non-refundable.** The following scale of charges will apply per person when cancellation is received prior to departure:

Until Feb 27, 2025	\$800
Feb 28 – Jul 17, 2024	\$2,000
From Jul 18, 2025	100% non refundable

NB: different payment/cancellation policies apply to airline tickets; you will be advised at time of booking.

TRAVEL INSURANCE:

STI strongly recommends that each tour participant has health, cancellation, interruption, accident and baggage insurance for the duration of his/her travels.

RESPONSIBILITY AND LIABILITY:

STI acts only as an agent in securing all services related to the tours described in this brochure, including transportation, sightseeing and accommodation. STI shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, cost, damage, injury, delay or expense arising from the use of any conveyance, accommodation or service or from acts of God, war, acts of terrorism, strikes, weather, quarantine, accidents, sickness, government regulations, insufficient documents and any loss expense resulting from the above contingencies shall be borne by the tour member. In the event it becomes necessary or advisable for the comfort of the passenger, or for any reason whatsoever, to alter the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the operators. Additional expense, if any, shall be borne by the passenger. The right is reserved to withdraw any or all tours should conditions warrant, and also to decline to accept or retain any passenger as a member of the tour. In such instances, full or equitable amounts will be refunded.

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, VISAS AND VACCINES:

It is entirely the passenger's responsibility to possess whatever documents, visas and vaccines are required by the law of the countries visited on the tour.

AIRLINE RESPONSIBILITY:

Any air carrier providing transportation in connection with these tours is not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time the passenger is not on board its planes. The passenger contract in use by the airlines concerned, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the airline and the purchase of these tours and/or passenger. Similar responsibility as noted applies to all types of carriers, including car rental companies.



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