

## **TOUR RELIGIOUS LOURDES & ITALY**

**DAY 1 ARRIVAL DAY -** We arrive at the Airport, where our tour manager will meet us and remain with us for the duration of our pilgrimage. Lunch in a local restaurant. Visit at the Basilica of St. Sernin, the former abbey church of the Abbey of St. Sernin or St. Saturnin. The church is particularly noted for the quality and quantity of its Romanesque sculpture. In 1998 the basilica was added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites under the description: World Heritage Sites of the Routes of Santiago de Compostela in France. Departure for Lourdes. Check in, dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**DAY 2 LOURDES -** Breakfast at the hotel. Opening Holy Mass (time permitting) at the Shrine of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception. Free time for personal prayer and reflection. In the afternoon guided tour of Lourdes, visit to all of the places associated with the St. Bernadette. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**DAY 3 LOURDES -** Breakfast at the hotel. Half day tour of the shrine visiting the Grotto of Massabielle where Blessed Virgin appeared 18 times to Bernadette Soubirous in 1858. Group will also see The Baths, later on their own pilgrims can come here to plunge into the Lourdes miraculous water. Visit at The Basilica of Immaculate Conception built on top of the rock above the Grotto. Free time for lunch and personal adventure. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. Around 9 p.m. Optional candlelight Marian procession.

**DAY 4 FREE DAY LOURDES** - Breakfast at the hotel. Free day in Lourdes for visiting the Baths on your own, or for personal adventure, prayer and reflection. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

**DAY 5 LOURDES – TOULOSE DEPARTURE DAY TO ITALY -** Breakfast at the hotel. Morning mass at the shrine and departure for Toulouse airport. Flight to Rome. Upon arrival in Rome, transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 6 VATICAN CITY/ROME** - Breakfast at the hotel. Today we enter St. Peter's through the holy doors to celebrate Mass and view the beautiful "pieta." We visit the treasures of the Vatican museum and marvel at Michelangelo's restored frescoes in the sistine chapel. We pray the angelus with pope Francis at noon (if he is in residence and did not celebrate our mass this morning). Lunch is on our own. This afternoon we see two of rome's major basilicas–st. John lateran and st. Mary Major; entering through the holy doors at each basilica. Our tour continues to st. Peter in chains to view Michelangelo's possibly most celebrated sculpture, the "Moses". Dinner and overnight at our hotel.



**DAY 8 VATICAN CITY/ROME -** This morning we enjoy a panoramic bus tour around the glorious city of rome including the roman fora, the arch of Constantine, the coliseum and the tomb of the unknown soldier. After lunch on our own, we visit st. Paul's beyond the walls where we pass through the last of the holy doors of the basilicas of rome. This huge, imposing basilica, second only to st. Peter's and one of the largest churches in the christian world, contains an unusual gallery of papal portraits: 265 tablets portraying the Popes of the past. We conclude our day at one of the catacombs, burial place of early christians. We celebrate mass here and view the 2nd and 3rd century fresco paintings. We continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 9 LORETO/MONTESILVANO -** This morning we drive east to Loreto. We celebrate Mass and visit the site of the Santa Casa or Holy House. Ancient tradition tells us angels carried the house of the Holy Family from Nazareth to Loreto as it was about to be destroyed by Holy Land invaders. After our visit, we continue southwards to Montesilvano (Pescara area) for dinner and overnight at our hotel on the shores of the Adriatic Sea.

**DAY 10 LANCIANO/SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO** - This morning we visit and pray at Lanciano, the site of the oldest Eucharistic Miracle certified by the Church. After almost eight centuries, the Body and the Blood still maintain all the characteristics of fresh human material. We continue south to San Giovanni Rotondo where we celebrate Mass at the tomb of Saint Padre Pio and visit the sanctuary. We transfer to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

**DAY 11 SAN GIOVANNI ROTONDO – SORRENTO** - This morning we continue to west till the wonderful town of Sorrento along the Mediterranean Sea, on to the Bay of Naples whit stop in Pompeii, the Roman City destroyed but yet preserved by the volcanic ash of Vesuvios in 79 AD. We celebrate Mass at the church of the Holy Rosary recently visited by Saint John Paul II here. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Sorrento.

**DAY 12 FREE DAY -** Today is free for rest, shopping or personal adventure. You can buy our optional excursions by our Tour Manager to Capri, Naples, Pompeii etc. Dinner is on our own. Overnight at our hotel.

**DAY 13 DEPARTURE DAY -** Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Naples airport. End of the tour