

Catholic Pilgrimage Choir Tour to France

Followed by a visit to Switzerland

Standard Tour #2 (8 nights / 10 days)

Day 1

Departure from USA via scheduled airline service to Toulouse, France. Enjoy full meal/beverage service and in-flight entertainment during this trans-Atlantic flight.

Day 2 Toulouse / Lourdes

Arrive at Toulouse Airport. Meet your MCI Tour Manager, who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer into Lourdes for evening Welcome Dinner and overnight.

Lourdes, beautifully situated on both banks of the Gave de Pau on the northern fringe of the Pyrenees, is the summer residence of the bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes and a famous place of pilgrimage. As a place of pilgrimage Lourdes owes its fame to the appearances of the Virgin to a shepherd girl named Bernadette Soubirous (1844-1879) in the nearby Grotte de Massabielle on the Gave de Pau, and to the spring found by Bernadette in the cave whose water is credited with healing qualities. Bernadette was beatified in 1925 and canonized in 1933.

Day 3 Lourdes

Participate/sing a morning Mass. Enjoy a walking tour of 'In the Footsteps of Bernadette.' We visit the Cachot (former jail cell that once served as the Soubirous family's home); the parish church; Fr. Peyramale's Presbytery; the Hospice and the Holy Mill. Afternoon at leisure. Late afternoon participate in the Procession of the Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed of the Sick. Evening transfer to the Sanctuary for the Rosary and Torchlight Procession.

Day 4 Lourdes / Lisieux

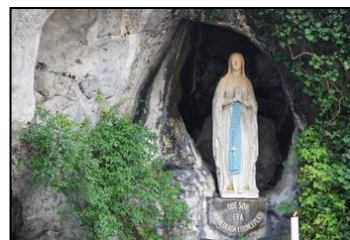
Transfer to Paris and then to Lisieux for overnight.

Lisieux is one of the most charming places in Normandy. Like other Norman towns, it was founded over two thousand years ago. It was at the turn of the 20th century that France and later the whole world discovered the life and message of a young Norman Carmelite, St. Thérèse. The town where she lived became an important shrine of spirituality. Lisieux is now a cathedral town devoted to St. Thérèse, canonized in 1925, and attracts many thousands of pilgrims each year.

Day 5 Lisieux / Paris

Half-day sightseeing includes the sites of St. Thérèse. Visit St. Thérèse's home, the Basilique St. Thérèse and Chapel du Carmel to visit the tomb of St. Thérèse. St. Thérèse entered the Carmelite convent at age 15 and stayed until her death at age 24. Afternoon transfer to Paris for overnight.

Paris is a city that can exhilarate you, exasperate you and leave you speechless with wonder. Millions of tourists each year come to Paris, motivated by the desire to see the most beautiful city in the world. But Paris is more than a city. It is a place that breathes history and legend, a combination of the modern and the ancient.



Day 6 Paris

Private Mass in Chapelle Medaille Miraculeuse. View the incorrupt body of St Catherine Labouret whose guardian angel led her to the chapel where the Blessed Virgin displayed a vision of the miraculous medal and later the green scapular. The Virgin promised bountiful graces for all who wore these. We then visit St. Chapelle which, after Notre Dame, is France's second most important monument of the Middle Ages. The Chapel was built to enshrine relics from the First Crusade. Also visit the Basilica of Sacre Coeur (The Sacred Heart), one of the most beautiful churches in Paris.



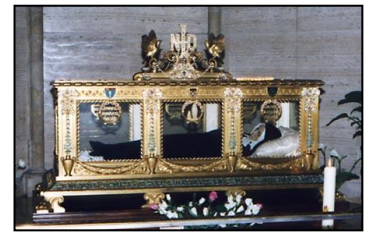
Day 7 Paris

Enjoy a half-day tour of Paris artistique, including entrance to the Louvre, the largest and greatest art museum in the world. **Participate/sing Mass in Notre-Dame Cathedral, dedicated to Our Lady.** Afternoon at leisure for additional sightseeing, church visits, shopping or other planned activities.



Day 8 Paris / Nevers / Paray le Monial

Transfer to Nevers. After taking the veil in 1867, St Bernadette lived for 12 years as a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Nevers. At least three times during her short life-time, she received the last Sacraments. St Bernadette eventually died at the age of 35. See St Bernadette's incorrupt body at the convent of St Gildard, miraculously preserved since her death in 1879. Also visit St. Bernadette's Chapel. Continue to Paray le Monial for overnight.



Paray-le-Monial has become a much-frequented place of pilgrimage since 1873, as many as 100,000 pilgrims arriving yearly from all parts of Europe and America have come to visit the churches and soak in the atmosphere. Its religious glory is abundant. It is more than enough for its honor that it should be, as Leo XIII said in his Brief of Coronation of Notre Dame de Romay (25 July, 1896), "Caelo gratissimum oppidum", "a town very dear to heaven".



Day 9 Paray le Monial / Geneva, Switzerland

Participate/sing Mass in the Chapel of the Visitation. The most venerated church is the Chapel of the Visitation, where most of the apparitions to Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque took place. Also visit the Church of St. Claude de la Colombiere. Mid-morning transfer to Ars sur Formans to visit the incorrupt body of St. John Vianney at the Chapel of our Lady of Ars. Late afternoon transfer to Geneva for Farewell Dinner and overnight.



Day 10 Depart for home

Transfer to one of Paris's International Airports for return flight to USA. Arrive home in the evening of the same day.