



Montserrat, Lourdes, Lisieux & Paris with Greg Niehaus

11 days | Jun 06 2023—Jun 16 2023

Follow in the footsteps of medieval pilgrims as you make your way through Spain, Andorra, and France on this immersive tour. As you go, admire some of the holiest Catholic sites and step inside soaring churches where people have prayed for centuries. From the Benedictine Monastery of Montserrat to the grotto at Lourdes, to St. Therese's Lisieux and St. Martin's Tours, spirituality comes to the forefront on this memorable journey.



Your tour package includes

- 9 nights in handpicked hotels
- 9 breakfasts
- 2 lunches
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 food tasting
- 8 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 3 train rides

Included highlights

- La Sagrada Familia
- Montserrat & Manresa
- Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes
- Bordeaux
- Sacré-Cœur
- Church of Etienne du Mont
- Basilica of Sainte-Thérèse
- The Buissonnets

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain and paved roads, with some hills and stairs.

For more information, contact

grouptoursite.com/tours/montserrat-lourdes-lisieux-paris | 513-598-8880 | gniehaus@zoomtown.com

Montserrat, Lourdes, Lisieux & Paris with Greg Niehaus

11 days

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Barcelona today.

Barcelona → 2 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Barcelona

Included meals: welcome dinner

Welcome to Spain! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at a welcome dinner featuring regional wines.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Barcelona

Included meals: breakfast

Follow a local on a guided tour of the Catalanian capital.

- Step inside La Sagrada Família, Gaudí's famous masterwork-in-progress
- Drive along Passeig de Gràcia, past Gaudí's "House of Bones"
- Stop at Montjuïc, where the 1992 Olympic Games took place, and stroll through Mirador de l'Alcalde Park
- Pass Plaça d'Espanya

This afternoon, walk through Barcelona in the footsteps of St. Ignatius of Loyola or add an excursion.

+ Park Güell & La Pedrera

Andorra → 1 night

Day 4: Andorra via Montserrat & Manresa

Included meals: breakfast, dinner, lunch

This morning, visit the ninth-century Monastery of Montserrat, which inspired the composer Richard Wagner as he wrote Parsifal.

- Ride a high-flying cable car up the mountain and enjoy magnificent views of the Llobregat River Valley
- Visit the secluded Santa Maria de Montserrat Abbey
- Have a chance to see La Moreneta, Catalonia's miraculous and beloved statue of the Black Virgin of Montserrat

Then, travel down to Manresa, home to the cave in which St. Ignatius spent time praying and reading in solitude.

- Tour the cave with a local guide
- Sit down for an included lunch in Manresa.

Continue your journey to the principality of Andorra where you will spend the evening. After settling in to your hotel, gather for an included dinner in Andorra La Vella.

Lourdes → 1 night

Day 5: Transfer to Lourdes via St. Bertrand & Marian Procession

Included meals: breakfast

Make your way over the Pyrenees Mountains to Lourdes.

Arrive in Lourdes and spend a free afternoon getting to know the city.

This evening, attend the Marian Procession, which has occurred every night since 1872, ending at a Mass in the Grotto of the Apparition.

Bordeaux → 1 night

Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Lourdes & transfer to Bordeaux

Included meals: breakfast, dinner

Set off on a sightseeing tour of Lourdes, France's most sacred Christian pilgrimage site.

- Visit the houses of Bernadette
- Enter the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes to see the Rosary Basilica and the Grotto of Massabielle, a healing site where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared
- Step inside the Basilica of Saint Pius X, completed in 1957

Transfer north to the city of Bordeaux where you will spend the evening.

Tonight, sit down for an included dinner.

Paris → 4 nights

Day 7: Sightseeing Tour of Bordeaux, Train to Paris & sightseeing tour of Montmartre

Included meals: breakfast, tasting

Meet up with a local guide for a tour of the UNESCO-listed historic district in Bordeaux.

- Begin at the Monument aux Girondins and Place des Quinconces, one of the largest city squares in Europe
- See the Place de la Bourse before crossing over the Pont de Pierre
- Stop at Cours Victor Hugo and Palais Rohan
- Walk past the lively hub of the Place de la Comédie and the Grand Théâtre
- Sample local sweets, such as merveilles, canelés, or bouchons de Bordeaux, as you go

This afternoon, board a high-speed TGV train to Paris and travel through the picturesque landscapes that influenced the French masters.

- Ride the funicular to the top of the hill in Montmartre and take in the sweeping views of Paris below
- Learn how on the morning of August 15th, 1534, Ignatius of Loyola and his six companions met and took upon themselves solemn vows of their lifelong work at Saint-Pierre de Montmartre
- Enter Sacré-Cœur, or the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Paris, and explore this religious landmark at your leisure

Day 8: Sightseeing tour of Paris

Included meals: breakfast

A guided tour introduces you to the architecture, scenery, and history of the City of Light's many neighborhoods, called *arrondissements*.

- Drive down the sycamore-lined Champs-Élysées to view the Arc de Triomphe
- See the Eiffel Tower, the Palais Garnier opera house, and Place de la Concorde, the city's grandest square
- Pass Pont Neuf and the legendary Notre-Dame Cathedral, located on an island in the Seine River
- Stop at Sorbonne University, then called the University of Paris, where Ignatius of Loyola studied, met and roomed with Francis Xavier and Peter Faber
- Enter the Church of Etienne du Mont, containing the Shrine of St. Genevieve, where Ignatius studied at St. Barbe
- Marvel at the iconic architecture of the Louvre and Hôtel des Invalides

This afternoon head to the world's largest art museum, the Louvre.

For more information, contact

grouptoursite.com/tours/montserrat-lourdes-lisieux-paris | 513-598-8880 | gniehaus@zoomtown.com

Please note: Travelers are responsible for purchasing their own entry. Go Ahead Tours will only be providing transportation to and from the museum.

Enjoy a free evening or add an excursion.

+ Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Lisieux & The Carmel

Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner

Travel to the sacred town of Lisieux by train, home to The Carmel monastery where Saint Thérèse spent her life. Meet up with a local guide for a tour of what is considered the second most important pilgrimage site in France.

- Enter The Buissonnets, the childhood home of Thérèse Martin until she entered the Lisieux's Carmelite Monastery
- Wander the Basilica of Sainte-Thérèse and view the ornate neo-Byzantine decorations
- Walk down to the Ermitage Sainte-Thérèse, a centre for spiritual welcoming, and enjoy an included lunch
- Visit the Carmel of Lisieux, where pilgrims come from around the world to honor and pay respect to Sainte-Thérèse's remains

Transfer back to Paris via train, then sit down for an included dinner.

Day 10: Free Day in Paris

Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner

Spend a free day exploring Paris at your leisure, or add an excursion.

Celebrate your trip with your fellow group members at tonight's farewell dinner.

+ A Day in Tours

Flight Home

Day 11: Departure

Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)

Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: grouptoursite.com/tours/montserrat-lourdes-lisieux-paris | 513-598-8880

Day 3: Park Güell & La Pedrera

\$99 (4 hours, departure time varies)

On today's excursion, discover the magnificent works of Antoni Gaudí, the famed Spanish architect known for his bold, distinct designs. Casa Milà is the first stop.

Take a guided tour of this building, popularly known as "La Pedrera," which was built by Gaudí between 1905 and 1910. Everything about the building is visually unique, from the wave-like stone structure and grandly designed roof to the apartment that reflects the style of the 20th-century bourgeois. Next, you'll head to Park Güell, also designed by Gaudí. Your guide will lead you through the park, which contains stunning buildings, intricate stonework, and colorful mosaics. At the top of the park, marvel at the brilliant views of Barcelona. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 8: Dinner in Paris & Seine River Cruise

\$119/\$129* (5 hours, departs in the evening, dinner included)

Take in the nighttime allure of the City of Light on a special evening excursion. The event begins with dinner at a local restaurant. After you dine, board a boat cruise along the Seine. As you coast along the river and under Paris' bridges, you'll behold the illuminated monuments of the city glittering alongside the riverbanks. Please note: The dress code may vary depending on the restaurant for your dinner. Your Tour Director will advise you on what to wear, but shorts and sneakers are likely to be considered inappropriate attire.

Day 10: A Day in Tours

\$129/\$139* (10 hours, departs in the morning)

Board a high-speed train to Tours, the capital of the Loire Valley, for a day of guided sightseeing in the beautiful old town center. Follow in the footsteps of St. Martin along the narrow cobbled streets of the city. Enter monumental Saint-Gatien Cathedral built in a range of Gothic art styles between the 13th and 16th centuries. Walk through Place Plumereau and Chateaufort Square and admire the medieval half-timbered French houses. Visit the Basilique Saint-Martin de Tours and view the tomb of St. Martin in the basilica's crypt. Enjoy free time for lunch in Halles de Tours, an expansive market featuring artisan breads, cheeses, wines, pastries, and more. After lunch, embark on a scenic cruise along the Loire River in a traditional flat-bottomed river boat. Return to Paris via high-speed train.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms