

The Centennial Celebration of Our Lady of Fatima!

7 days / 5 nights

"The only way I can prove my love is by scattering flowers and these flowers are every little sacrifice, every glance and word, and the doing of the least actions for love" (Saint Thérèse also known as "The Little Flower of Jesus")

The 100th anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima is an historic moment of grace! As we experience this faith journey, we will heed the prophetic messages our Blessed Mother, Mary and her call to conversion and justice in the world. As Mary points us to her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, we will deepen our Catholic identity and renew our Baptismal call to be good stewards of God's gracious gifts in our lives. Hail Mary, full of grace...

Day 1: Overnight Flight

Our pilgrimage begins with an overnight flight to Lisbon, Portugal.

Day 2: Arrival in Lisbon

"Are you willing to offer yourselves to God and bear all the sufferings He wills to send you, as an act of reparation for the conversion of sinners?" – Our Lady of Fatima

Upon arrival in Lisbon, we will meet our Faith Journeys representative who will help us board our awaiting motor coach. We will celebrate Mass before traveling to the original town of Fatima and the parish church where the children Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia were baptized. En route to Fatima, we will stop in Santarem to visit the Shrine of the Most Holy Miracle, and at the church of St. Stephen we will see the relic of the miraculous Host, considered among the most important Eucharistic miracles. This evening, we will continue to our final destination, Fatima, to enjoy dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 3: Fatima

"I have come to ask you to come here for six months on the 13th day of the month, at this same hour. Later I shall say who I am and what I desire. And I shall return here yet a seventh time." – Our Lady of Fatima

In 1916, on three separate occasions, Lucia Santos and her two cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, began witnessing apparitions of an angel in the region of Ourém. These visitations persisted until the 13 May 1917 when, while tending their family's sheep in Cova da Iria, they witnessed the apparition of what they later assumed was the Virgin Mary, and began doing penance and self-sacrifice to atone for sinners. Many flocked to Fátima and Aljustrel to witness these apparitions along with the children, but not before the children were jailed for being politically disruptive. These visitations culminated in the public Miracle of the Sun event, even as the apparition of Mary divulged three secrets to the children. Although the last apparition occurred on 13 October 1917, the region of Fátima continued to be a destination of pilgrims. Today, we will relish in a full day to explore Fatima! We'll begin the day by celebrating Mass, after which we'll visit the Tombs of Francisco and Jacinta as well as other sites related to the miraculous appearances of Mary to the children. We will visit The Sanctuary of Fátima and The Basilica of the Santissima Trindade, which was constructed after 1953 in order to accommodate the growing amount of pilgrims visiting this holy space (as many as four million people each year!). We will have time in Fatima for our own devotions and prayers at the Hungarian Stations of the Cross, consisting of fourteen small chapels along walkways leading to a marble monument of Christ on the cross. We continue on to Aljustrel, where the children lived, and view the site of the fifth apparition in Valinhos. After a wonderful day, we will return to our hotel for dinner and another overnight stay.



Day 4: Lisbon

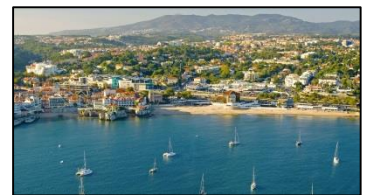
Mary specifically told Lucia not to tell anyone about the secret at this stage, apart from Francisco, before continuing: "When you pray the Rosary, say after each mystery: 'O my Jesus, forgive us, save us from the fire of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who are most in need.'" – Our Lady of Fatima

We'll greet the new day with eyes wide open as we transfer to Europe's westernmost capital city, Lisbon, Portugal. After a brief tour of this beautiful city rich in art, architecture and spirit, and home to many saints, we will visit the São Jorge Castle (or *Castelo de São Jorge*). This strongly fortified Moorish castle, which sits on a hilltop overlooking the historic center of Lisbon and the Tagus River, dates from the medieval period of Portuguese history, and is one of the main tourist sites of Lisbon. We will be able to explore this incredible citadel and learn about its rich history, including its Celtic roots, its role during the Second Crusade and King Ferdinand I's extensive renovations in the 1300's including the building of the *Cerca Nova* or *Cerca Fernandina*, the walled compound that encloses the entirety of the castle. The castle and the city resisted the forces of Castile several times during the 14th century and it was during this period that the castle was dedicated to Saint George by King John I, who had married the English princess, Philippa of Lancaster. Saint George, the warrior-saint, was normally represented slaying a dragon, and very was popular in both countries. We will then continue on to the Jeronimos Monastery (*Mosteiro dos Jerónimos*), a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most prominent examples of the Portuguese Late Gothic Manueline style of architecture in Lisbon. The construction of the monastery and church (which replaced the church formerly existing in the same place that was dedicated to *Santa Maria de Belém* and where the monks of the military-religious Order of Christ provided assistance to seafarers in transit) began on 6 January 1501, and was completed 100 years later. Within the church, in the lower choir, are the stone tombs of Vasco da Gama (1468–1523), and of the great poet and chronicler of the Age of Discoveries, Luís de Camões (1527–1570). We will enjoy the remainder of the afternoon at leisure and meet for Mass before we enjoy dinner and an overnight stay at our hotel in Lisbon.

Day 5: Sintra, Cascais, Estoril

"Pray, pray very much, and make sacrifices for sinners; for many souls go to hell, because there are none to sacrifice themselves and pray for them." – Our Lady of Fatima

This morning we arise and take an excursion to Sintra, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its many 19th-century Romantic architectural monuments. In addition to the Sintra Mountains and Sintra-Cascais Nature Park, the parishes of the town of Sintra are dotted with royal retreats, estates, castles and other buildings, including the mediaeval Castelo dos Mouros, the Pena National Palace and the Sintra National Palace. The Sintra National Palace, also called Town Palace, is the best preserved medieval Royal Palace in Portugal, and was inhabited more or less continuously from at least the early 15th century to the late 19th century. It is now an historic house museum, dominated on the outside by the two large towers on the east side, which, as we tour the incredible palace, we will find out are chimneys for the giant ovens which at one point were cooking food for the residents and guests around the clock! Inside, we will visit the ornate Coats-of-Arms Room (*Sala dos Brasões*) (1515–1518), with a magnificent wooden coffered domed ceiling decorated with 72 coats-of-arms of the King and the main Portuguese noble families. The coat-of-arms of the Távora family was however removed after their conspiracy against King Joseph I. We will also visit the small coastal towns of Cascais and Estoril before celebrating Mass and heading back to our hotel in Lisbon for dinner and another overnight stay.



Day 6: Excursion to Obidos, Afternoon at Leisure

Today, we will embark on a half-day excursion to Obidos, located on a hilltop, encircled by a fortified wall. The name "Óbidos" probably derives from the Latin term oppidum, meaning "citadel", or "fortified city". Its origins date back to an early Roman settlement near the foothills of an elevated escarpment. After the fall of Rome, the region came under the influence of the Visigoths, then the Moors, then ultimately by the first King of Portugal, Afonso Henriques, in 1148. The castle and walls of Óbidos saw extensive remodeling during the 14th century, but the 1755 earthquake caused much damage to the village walls, a few churches, and many buildings, resulting in the loss of architecture of Arab or Medieval inspiration. We will travel back to Lisbon for an afternoon free to relax at our hotel or a café, continue sightseeing or journal on the Holy Spirit's "tug" on your soul and your experiences in this incredible country. This evening we will meet to celebrate Mass, enjoy a sumptuous farewell dinner at a local restaurant and retire to our hotel for our final overnight stay in Portugal.



Day 7: Flight to USA

"...in the end my Immaculate Heart will triumph" – Our Lady of Fatima

With hearts full of gratitude and memories for a lifetime, we transfer to the Lisbon airport for the return flight home to the USA



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