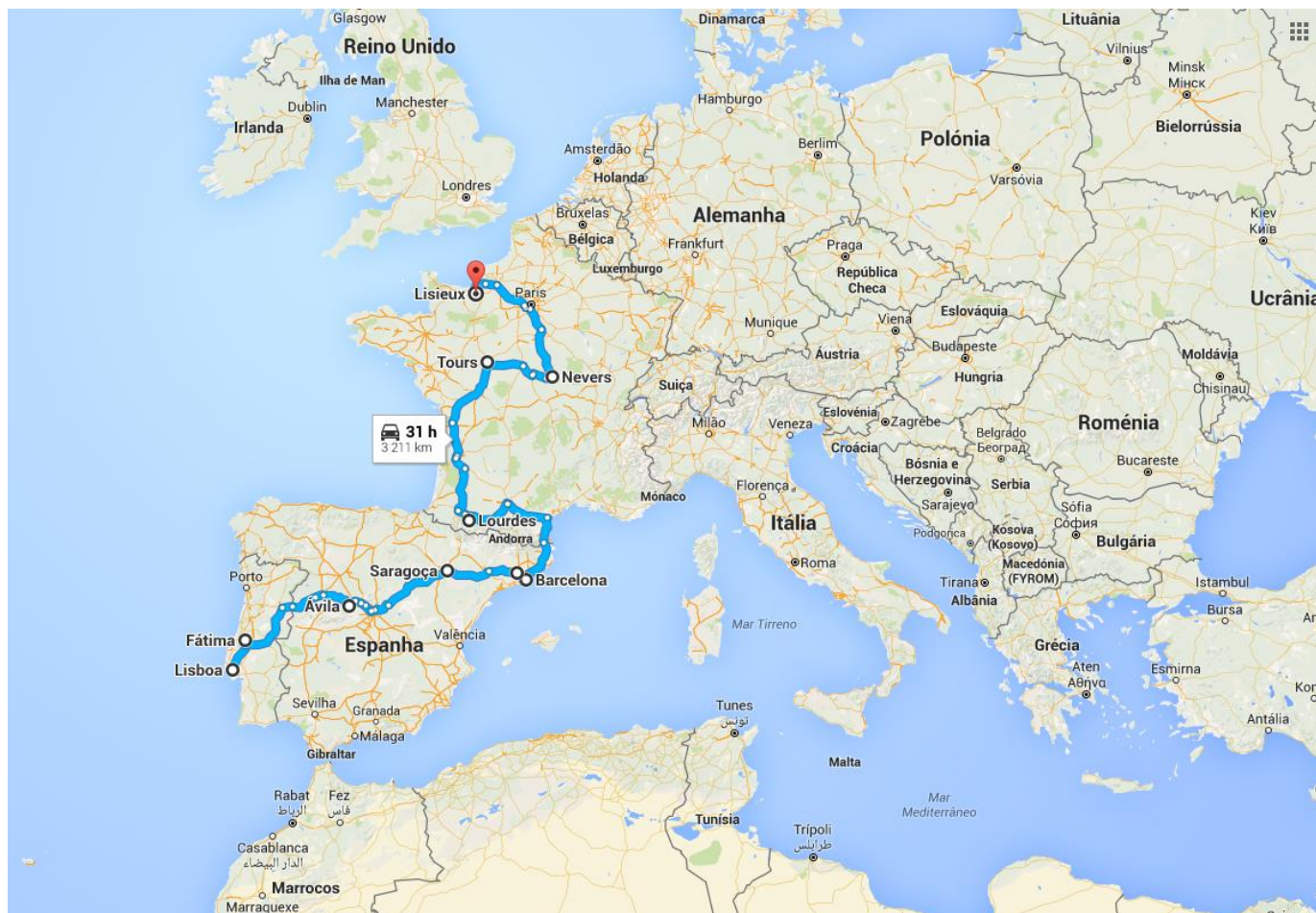




12 DAYS/11 NIGHTS:

FÁTIMA, ÁVILA, ZARAGOSA, MONTSERRAT, BARCELONA, LOURDES, TOURS, NEVERS, LISIEUX





ITINERARY:

Day 1 – Lisbon-Santarem-Fatima

Arrival at Lisbon. Meet and greet. A panoramic tour of this fascinating city follows viewing the Hieronymite Monastery, Vasco da Gama's tomb, Belem Tower, the Pombal Statue, Commerce Square and the Church of St Anthony. Transfer to **Fatima**. This evening join other pilgrims from the world over in the daily procession. Dinner and overnight in Fatima.

Day 2 - Fatima

During our stay in Fatima we will have the opportunity to visit the Sanctuary, the Basilica and the Shrine. Visit the site of Bl. Francisco and Bl. Jacinta's graves. Visit the hamlet of Adjustrel where the children lived, the Valinhos site of the appearance of Our Lady to the children. Participate in the celebrations commemorating the Apparition of Our Lady to Jacinta, Lucia and Francisco. This includes Holy Mass, Procession, Blessing of the sick, Way of the Cross. Dinner/overnight in Fatima.

Day 3 – Avila

After breakfast leave for the world heritage walled town of **Avila**. Avila is one of the finest remnants of Europe's medieval era, the walled town of Avila was sacred to an ancient Celtiberian culture long before the arrival of the Romans or Christians. The city was captured by the Arab Moors in 714 AD, recaptured by the Christians in 1088, and had its protective walls built in the 12th century. Extending for 2,500 meters and encircling the old town, the massive walls are punctuated by ninety, heavily fortified stone towers. Avila is much visited by tourists today, yet in the late medieval ages its visitors were pilgrims coming to the church in the centre of the walled city.

The current church, begun in 1091 and completed in the 13th century, is where the mystic St. Teresa (1515-1582) had frequent visions and ecstatic experiences. Nearby the church stands the house where St. Teresa lived. Dinner/overnight in Avila.

Day 4 - Zaragoza

This morning drive to **Zaragoza** one of the major cities of Spain. Tour of this beautiful city with its 2,000 years of history. You will find a stunning legacy of monuments in the streets of the city, vestiges of the Roman, Moorish, Jewish and Christian communities who left their mark on the place. Roman ruins such as the Circus, Aljafería Palace, Mudéjar-style churches, with the UNESCO World Heritage designation; Baroque gems like the Pilar Basilica the work of brilliant artist Francisco de Goya... also the Expo 2008 site. Visit the Basilica de Nuestra Senora del Pilar. Dinner and overnight in Zaragoza.

Day 5 - Montserrat

After breakfast continue on to visit the Monastery of **Montserrat**, located near the top of the 4,000-foot mountain, home to about 80 monks. The monks welcome visitors and invite them to participate in their daily celebrations of Mass and recitations of the Liturgy of the Hours. The Basilica next to the monastery is home to the revered La Moreneta, or Black Virgin. The basilica also holds one of the monastery's most noted attractions, the 50-member Escolanía, one of the oldest and most renowned boys' choirs in Europe, dating from the 13th century. At 1pm daily you can hear them singing "Salve Regina" and the "Virolai" (hymn of Montserrat) in the basilica. Walking paths and a funicular take visitors to Santa Cova (Holy Grotto) the traditional site of the discovery of the Black Virgin. The grotto dates from the 17th century and was built in the shape of a cross. Proceed to **Barcelona** for dinner/overnight.





Day 6 - Barcelona

After breakfast we will do a city tour of this spectacular city before visiting the famed Cathedral Sagrada Familia designed by the renowned architect Antoni Gaudi. Dinner and overnight in Barcelona.

Day 7 - Lourdes

Leaving Spain we enjoy a relaxed drive to **Lourdes** passing through the scenic Pyrenees. Lourdes is the most famous Catholic pilgrimage centre in the world. This evening join thousands of other pilgrims from all over the world in the Torchlight Marian Procession. Dinner and overnight in Lourdes.

Day 8 - Lourdes

Breakfast. Tour of Lourdes including the Grottes de Betharram, St Bernadette's birthplace, the Sanctuary, the Holy Baths. Evening Blessed Sacrament Procession & Torchlight Procession. Dinner and overnight.

Day 9 - Tours

This morning drive to **Tours** in South west France. Visit the Basilica of Saint Martin of Tours. Saint Martin was the first saint to be canonized who was not a martyr. Known as the "Apostle of Gaul" he was a Roman Legionnaire who reportedly cut his cloak in half so as to share it with a beggar in the freezing cold. Dinner and overnight in Tours.

Day 10 - Nevers

After an early breakfast we depart for **Nevers**. Nevers is not only a town of "history and art", but also a town of "artists and artisans". It has a rich and varied heritage. We will visit the Chapel in St Gildard where lies the incorrupt body of St Bernadette. Dinner and overnight in Nevers.

Day 11 - Lisieux

This morning drive to **Lisieux** the location of The Carmel monastery where St. Therese spent her years as a religious nun. Lisieux is becoming one of the premier pilgrimage places in the world, currently receiving more than two million pilgrims a year and the number continues to grow. The city is well established for receiving pilgrims, with a number of places related to the life of St. Therese. The most prominent are the Carmelite convent, her home (Les Buissonnets), the Cathedral, and the Basilica.

Day 12 - Departure

After breakfast transfer to Charles de Gaulle airport.

