



LUMEN TERRA

PILGRIMAGES - CULTURE - CHOIRS



TRAVEL WITH HELENE

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- ⇒ **Group: In the footsteps of the Saints**
- ⇒ **March 30th to April 11th 2027**
- ⇒ **Dated from 06/09/2026**

Program

The guide-tour leader has a general knowledge of the places you'll visit and a deep knowledge of the history of France, of its Christian heritage, of the spirituality of the sanctuaries and the monasteries. Its role clearly outgrows its of a regular tour escort as he will give spiritual, cultural and historical explanations to the group all along the way. However, in some Unesco or national monuments sites, only local guides are authorized to guide. In these specific cases, it'll be mentioned in your program.

March 30th 2027 : ROME

Arrival at Rome airport, where you will be welcomed by your English-speaking Lumen Terra tour leader. After meeting the group, you will transfer and check-in at your 4-star hotel. After checking in at the hotel, the group will begin their pilgrimage with a visit to St. Mary Major Basilica (Santa Maria Maggiore). One of the four Papal Basilicas of Rome, this magnificent church is especially significant during the Jubilee Year and houses some of the most revered Marian relics in Christendom.

Pizza Group lunch.

Continue to St. John Lateran Basilica, the Cathedral of Rome and the official ecclesiastical seat of the Holy Father. Here, pilgrims will also have the opportunity to pray and ascend the Holy Steps (Scala Santa), traditionally believed to be the steps climbed by Christ during His Passion. Lunch on your own.

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Rome.

March 31st 2027 : ROME

Breakfast at your hotel.

Today, continue your Marian pilgrimage with a full day dedicated to the Vatican and the most important churches devoted to the Virgin Mary in Rome. Begin with a guided visit of the remarkable Vatican Museums and the world-famous Sistine Chapel. The museums contain extraordinary collections gathered by the Popes throughout centuries, including masterpieces of painting, sculpture, and religious art. The Sistine Chapel, decorated by Michelangelo between 1508 and 1512, is one of



the greatest artistic achievements in history. Its celebrated ceiling and the Last Judgment illustrate

scenes from the Bible with exceptional beauty and spiritual intensity. This visit allows pilgrims to discover the richness of Christian art and the important role of the Church in preserving this heritage.

Lunch on your own.

In the afternoon, continue with a visit to Church of Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, famous for the apparition of the Virgin Mary to Alphonse Ratisbonne in 1842, which led to his conversion to Catholicism. This peaceful church is an important place of Marian devotion and reflection. End the day with some free time in the historic centre of Rome near Piazza Navona or Trevi Fountain before enjoying a final evening in the Eternal City.

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Rome.

April 1st 2027 : ROME / PARIS

Breakfast at your hotel.



In the morning, head toward St. Peter's Square and enjoy a first visit of the magnificent St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the world and one of the holiest places of the Catholic faith. Built over the tomb of Saint Peter, the basilica is a masterpiece of Renaissance and Baroque art. Admire Michelangelo's famous Pietà, representing the Virgin Mary holding the body of Christ after the Crucifixion, a moving symbol perfectly linked to the Marian dimension of the pilgrimage. The impressive dome, designed by Michelangelo, dominates the skyline of Rome and welcomes pilgrims from all over

the world. This first spiritual step in Rome offers a unique opportunity for prayer, reflection, and contemplation in the very centre of the Catholic Church. The current basilica was built beginning in 1506 under Pope Julius II and was consecrated in 1626. Numerous great artists contributed to its splendour, including Bramante, Raphael, Bernini, and Michelangelo. Throughout the centuries, St. Peter's Basilica became a major place of pilgrimage and one of the strongest symbols of Christian unity. The vast square in front of the basilica, designed by Bernini, represents the maternal arms of the Church embracing the faithful.

Lunch on your own.

Transfer to Rome airport for your flight to Paris.

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Paris.

April 2nd 2027 : PARIS

Breakfast at your hotel.

Pilgrimage to the **chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal**, a high spiritual Parisian place where several apparitions of the Virgin Mary took place in 1830. These apparitions are recognized by the Church. It is a place of peace and silence in the heart of Paris. One can there invoke the Virgin Mary with this prayer "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee". It is also the occasion to discover the life



of Saint Catherine Labouré to whom the Virgin Mary appeared and to leave with a medal that the daughters of Charity still share with those who they meet. Each pilgrim can come to pray in the same spot of the apparitions or in front of the Saint's reliquary.

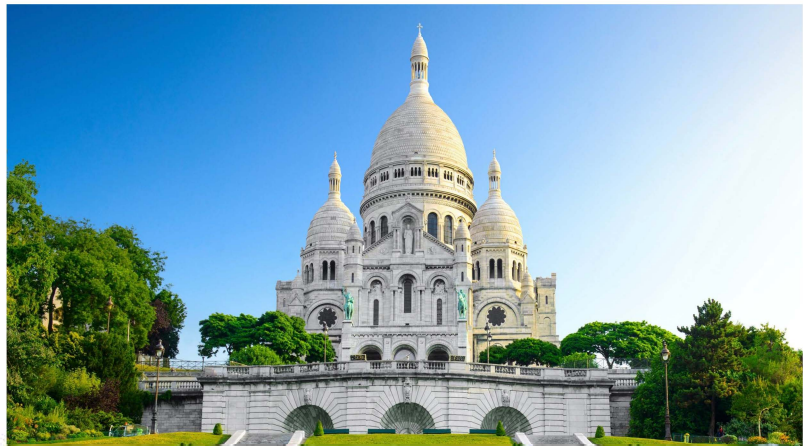
Just a few blocks away from the chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, discover the **chapel of Saint Vincent de Paul** and the relics of this saint. Through this chapel, pilgrims may pray Saint Vincent who was fervent apostle of Charity.

Saint Vincent de Paul was born in 1581 and kept throughout his life the concern for the very poor. Ordained a priest in 1600, he brought together several years later some well-to-do ladies to take care of the penniless and the sick. He also helped slaves and peasants. He was the founder and superior of the community of Lazarists, a group of priests whose apostolic mission is in rural areas. He also founded the community of the daughters of Charity as well as a Mission seminary from which left many priests for Madagascar. He led many projects for the poor in Paris, up until his death in 1660. He was proclaimed a saint on June 16, 1737 by Pope Clement XII.

Visit of **La Madeleine Church**.

Lunch on your own.

Continue to the **basilica of the Sacred Heart of Montmartre** and the amazing view you have over Paris from up there. In 1870, war broke out between France and Germany, and France was invaded. The idea took hold that the ordeals incurred by France were due to its spiritual faults rather than only political ones. This gave birth to the construction of a basilica dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This project was seen as atonement and also as the force of hope and spiritual renewal.



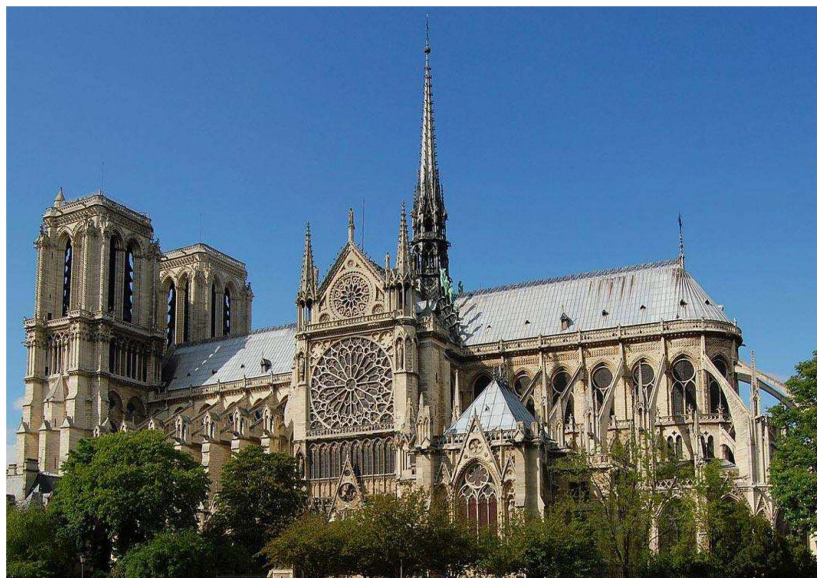
Parisian and French Christians pledge to maintain there a permanent 24/7 prayer in exchange for the protection of Paris. In 1872, the archbishop of Paris approved the project and chose the hill of Montmartre for the site. The financing of the edifice was through individual gifts (often modest ones) from people all over France. Their names are engraved in the stone of the basilica. For over a century, Parisians and pilgrims from all over the world relay to maintain the permanent prayer.

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Paris.

April 3rd 2027 : PARIS

Breakfast at your hotel.



Today, begin your discovery of Paris with a visit to the historic Île de la Cité, the very heart of the capital and the cradle of its history. You will then enjoy an inside visit of the majestic Notre-Dame de Paris, a true masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Admire its impressive façade, its sculpted portals, and its iconic towers, which have inspired visitors for centuries. Despite the recent restoration works, the cathedral remains a powerful symbol of faith, resilience, and artistic achievement. This moment offers an opportunity to reflect on

the spiritual and cultural significance of one of the most beloved monuments in France.

The project to build this splendid cathedral began in 1160 when the bishop of Paris wanted for his diocese a new cathedral dedicated to the Virgin Mary. The first stone was laid in 1163 in the presence of Pope Alexander III. The edifice met perfectly the expectations of the bishop as it is an architectural jewel and its rose windows are spectacular and huge. It became the symbol of Paris and of Christian France. In the 17th century, after 23 years of marriage and no children, King Louis XIII consecrated France to the Virgin Mary in thanks for the birth of his son, the famous Louis XIV.

Continue with the **Sainte Chapelle** (Holy Chapel), a real treasure hidden on the island of the Ile de la Cité in the centre of Paris. It has been built as a royal ecrin to receive the holy relics of the Crown of Thorns acquired by French king Louis IX. Discover the lower part with its openwork design and its bright colours and the upper part flooded with light with huge stained-glass windows. This chapel is an architectural feat with nothing to compare it to in the world. The relics have been transferred in the cathedral of Notre Dame located just a few meters away. Continu with a short visit of **Saint-Etienne du Mont** Church.

Lunch on your own.

Cultural and spiritual guided visit of the famous **Louvre museum**, one of the largest and most important in the world ! It is an unavoidable place of culture in France. The collections are exceptional and visitors come from around the world to discover its treasures. The eight galleries (Oriental, Egyptian, Greek, Etruscan and Roman antiquities, islamic art, sculptures, art objects, paintings and graphic arts) allow for but a fraction of the rich collection to be exhibited. Among the most celebrated art to be exhibited are the Mona Lisa by Leonardo de Vinci and the Venus de Milo.

Located in centre Paris, the Louvre was once a palace constructed by Philippe Augustus in 1190. Throughout the centuries, kings have transformed the edifice, each one leaving his personal touch by adding on a wing or even changing the general architectural style. This was a royal residence of the kings of France until the King Louis XV. In 1791, just after the French Revolution, the Louvre was decreed "a union of all the monuments of sciences and arts". It opened to the public on August 10, 1793. One enters through the 20 m high glass pyramid, built at the request of the president François Mitterrand.



Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Paris.

April 4th 2027 : PARIS / ALENÇON / PONTMAIN / LE TRONCHET

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer from Paris to Alençon : 3h30

Discover the **sanctuary consecrated the life of the blessed parents of Saint Therese** where one can discover Notre-Dame church where the Martins were married, the house where Therese was born, Louis's clockmaker's shop and the bridge where Zelig and Louis met. One can also get an understanding of the lacework that was done by Zelig. Today, families and many couples wishing to have a child come to Alençon to confide in Zelig and Louis their intentions.

The sanctuary is an opportunity to discover Therese's childhood and the life of her Blessed parents, Louis and Zelig Martin. During their first meeting on the bridge, Zelig immediately felt that the Lord had saved Louis to be her husband. Later, they would have the joy of welcoming four girls into their family, including Therese. But they also had to cope with much sickness and the loss of 5 children. They would suffer the hardships of the cancer that would kill Zelig and the mental illness that affected Louis in his old age. These difficulties would not keep them from their desire for holiness by putting God in the centre of their lives.

Transfer from Alençon to Pontmain : 2h



Visit of the **sanctuary of Pontmain** where took place an apparition of the Virgin Mary recognized by the church. At the border of Normandy and Brittany, this little village calls one to peace and hope ever since. In 1871, when France had been invaded by the Prussians, four children, Eugene and Joseph Barbedette, Françoise Richer and Jeanne-Marie Lebossé, contemplate the "beautiful lady" dressed in a blue dress with stars in the sky of Pontmain. The parishioners ran to the barn to pray with visionaries. The Virgin gave them this

message : "But pray, my children. God will answer your prayer very soon. My Son allows himself to be touched". After three hours, "it is all over" as the children said and everyone went home with hearts in peace. It took hardly a year for this apparition to be recognized by the Church. Today the magnificent basilica welcomes over 200,000 pilgrims coming from all over the world. Discover the **parish church**, the **barn** where the villagers came for the apparition and the **museum**.

Lunch on your own.

Transfer from Pontmain to Le Tronchet : 1h30

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Le Tronchet.

April 5th 2027 : LE TRONCHET / MONT-SAINT-MICHEL / COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER / LISIEUX

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer from Le Tronchet to Mont-Saint-Michel : 55min

Arrive at the iconic Mont-Saint-Michel, one of the most breathtaking and recognizable sites in France. Rising dramatically from a rocky islet off the Normandy coast, this extraordinary place is surrounded by a vast bay known for having some of the highest tides in the world, famously described as advancing "at the speed of a galloping horse." The ever-changing landscape of sand and sea gives the Mont a unique and almost mystical character throughout the day. You will enjoy a leisurely stroll through the charming

medieval village, with its narrow winding streets, ancient stone houses, and small shops, gradually ascending toward the summit. This walk offers beautiful viewpoints over the bay and a true immersion into the atmosphere of a place that has welcomed pilgrims for centuries. Classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Mont-Saint-Michel is both a masterpiece of human ingenuity and a site of deep spiritual significance. Your visit will culminate with the discovery of the magnificent abbey, perched at the top of the rock. This architectural jewel, built between the 11th and 16th centuries, combines Romanesque and Gothic styles and stands as a testament to centuries of faith, history, and artistic achievement.



In the year 709, after the first apparitions of the archangel Michael, a first chapel is built on the mount and dedicated to the archangel Michael. Nearly 300 years later, the benedictine monks established their community. They reorganized the existing buildings so as to make it into a monastery and to welcome pilgrims. The pilgrimage to Mont-Saint-Michel then became one of the most famous in the Christian world. Transformed into a prison at the French Revolution, the abbey was then restored and was listed as a national historical monument before a religious community was again established. Today, it is the monastic fraternity of Jerusalem that lives here, a renewal community that has as vocation to be an oasis of prayer in the heart of towns.

Lunch on your own.

Transfer from Mont-Saint-Michel to Colleville-sur-Mer : 2h

Your group heads toward Omaha Beach, one of the most significant landing sites of the D-Day. You will then visit the Normandy American Cemetery, a place of remembrance overlooking the sea, where you can pay tribute to the soldiers who gave their lives for freedom. This visit offers a moment of reflection and gratitude in a deeply moving historical setting.

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Transfer from Colleville-sur-Mer to Lisieux : 1h50

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Lisieux.

April 6th 2027 : LISIEUX

Breakfast at your hotel.

Day of pilgrimage at the **sanctuary of Lisieux**. Discover the **basilica** and watch a movie about the life of Saint Therese, doctor of the Church and called "the little Therese" by the pilgrims who appreciate her for her gospel simplicity. Visit of the "**Buissonnets**", the family home where Saint Therese spent her childhood, then discover the **Carmelite convent** where she remained cloistered until her death.

Lunch on your own.

Have a time of prayer by her relics at her shrine. Then visit the **cathedral of Saint Peter** where the Martin family went regularly to mass.



Born in Alençon, Thérèse spent more than 10 years in Lisieux in the house called "les Buissonnets". At the age of 15, she told her father of her desire to become a Carmelite nun. She went all the way to Rome with him to make the request directly to Pope Leo XIII and became a Carmelite two years later. It is at the request of the prioress that she began to write "History of a Soul" telling her history before her "entry into life" at the age of 24. Thérèse was quickly beatified and canonized at the request of her worldwide readers. Healings have been seen amongst those who come to pray by her tomb. A huge basilica has then been constructed to welcome the

crowds coming from the four corners of the world after discovering her "small way" to holiness. Pope John Paul II came to pray here during his trip in France in 1980. Today, pilgrims can come to pray for the intercession of this saint who promised to spend her time in heaven doing good on earth.

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Lisieux.

April 7th 2027 : LISIEUX / PARIS / LOURDES

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer from Lisieux to Paris : 3h30

This morning, transfer to Paris train station and transfer to Lourdes in 2nd class highspeed train. Arrive in Lourdes station and transfer to your hotel.

Lunch on your own.

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Lourdes.

April 8th 2027 : LOURDES

Breakfast at your hotel.

Day of pilgrimage at the **sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes**, doorway to the Pyrenees mountain chain. Known throughout the world, it is here that the Virgin Mary appeared to the uneducated shepherdess as the Immaculate Conception. Today the **grotto** where there were the apparitions is a place of prayer for all the pilgrims who flock here, many on pilgrimages for the sick. Each person can take some water from Lourdes for himself or for a friend. You can walk in the footsteps of Bernadette and visit the places where she lived : the **Boly mill** where she grew up and the **cachot** where her family had to move later on. The sanctuary also offers the possibility to deepen one's relationship with the Virgin Mary. The welcoming of the sick is particularly well organized and physical healings continue to happen. The museum of the miraculously healed and the examining office, in the confines of the sanctuary, are there to attest to the authenticity.

Lunch on your own.

Bernadette, was born in 1844. In spite of a very difficult life, she received a special grace. After her father, a miller, was ruined, Bernadette lived in a former prison room with her parents, her sister and her three brothers. One day she said "it is because I was the poorest and the most ignorant that the Holy Virgin chose me". It was on February 11, 1858, and for several times after that, that the Virgin appeared to her and revealed messages to her. The young girl, on the Virgin's indications, found a spring from which the water allowed healings. She later entered into religious life in Nevers. Lourdes is today the third most visited pilgrimage site in the world.



Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Lourdes.

April 9th 2027 : LOURDES – AVILA

Breakfast at your hotel.

Transfer from Lourdes to Avila : 7h45

Discover Ávila, the birthplace of Saint Teresa of Ávila and also the burial place of the Grand Inquisitor Tomás de Torquemada. This remarkable walled city, founded in the 11th century to defend Spanish territories against the Moors, has preserved its imposing ramparts, which still stand today, and retains a striking medieval austerity. As you stroll through the narrow streets of the old town, you will soak in its unique and deeply spiritual atmosphere. During your visit, you will discover the **Monastery of the Incarnation** and its museum, where Saint Teresa lived for many years, followed by the **Convent of Saint Joseph**, the first convent she founded as part of her reform of the Carmelite order, also featuring a museum.

Lunch on your own.

You will then explore the **Royal Monastery of Saint Thomas**, closely linked to the Catholic Monarchs and to Torquemada. Finally, you will enjoy an external visit of the **Ávila Cathedral**, a unique Gothic structure conceived both as a place of worship and a fortress, with its apse forming an integral part of the city walls.



Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Transfer from Avila to Fatima : 5h30

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Fatima.

April 10th 2027: FATIMA

Breakfast at your hotel.



Today is spent at the **shrine of Our Lady of Fátima**. Discover the chapel of the apparitions, the basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary where you can see Francisco and Jacinta's graves, Aljustrel, the village of shepherds, Loca do Anjo and Valinhos, the places of the apparitions.

In 1917, during World War I, the Virgin Mary appeared to three young children in Fátima revealing to them the power of the Rosary. She also entrusts them with three secrets: the vision of hell, the triumph of the Immaculate

Heart of Mary and the announcement of the assassination attempt on pope John Paul II.

Lunch on your own.

After lunch, spent the day by yourself at the Sanctuary for personal time.

Possibility of eucharistic celebration.

Dinner and overnight in your hotel in Fatima.

April 11th 2027 : RETURN HOME

Breakfast at your hotel.

After breakfast enjoy Fatima à little more depending on the time of the flight. Then Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

End of our services

NB : The program might be modified depending of technical problems or unexpected events.

All visits will be honored.

Included In Price

- Private motor coach for the whole program (11 hours a day) from day 1 to day 12.
- City taxes, parking fees and tolls for the coach.
- Transfer to Rome airport on day 3.
- Transfer to Fatima airport on day 13.
- 2nd class tickets for highspeed train from Paris to Lourdes on day 9.
- Baggage handling in/out (one piece / person).
- 13 nights in 4-star hotels in double/twin shared room in Rome, Paris, Le Tronchet, Lisieux, Lourdes, Avila and Fatima.
- 13 breakfasts.
- 1 pizza lunch on March 30th 2027.
- 13 dinners (starter, main course, dessert) in hotel or restaurant.
- Entrance fees : Saint Thomas Royal Monastery, Saint Mary Cathedral, Mont-Saint-Michel Abbey, The Louvre, Holy Chapel and the Vatican.
- Donations : Fatima, Loyola, Lourdes, Lisieux, Pontmain and Alençon sanctuaries.
- 1 English-speaking Lumen Terra guide-tour leader (13,5 days).
- Organization of the masses.
- Cable car tickets for Montmartre.
- Audiophones all along the trip.
- Meals and accommodations for your driver and your guide tour leader.
- Tourist taxes calculated on 06/09/2026.
- 20 % VAT.
- 1 free of charge in single room every 20 participants.
- Lumen Terra English-speaking hotline 24/7.

This price does not include

- Visas fees if any.
- Any service of coach or guide not mentioned in this price includes
- Tips to the driver and the tour leader.
- Personal purchases.
- Local guides.
- Any beverages
- Any lunches except the ones listed in « this price includes ».
- Any flights
- Donations for encounters.
- Any insurance.
- Anything that is not listed in « this price includes ».

Suggested hotels {subject to availability upon confirmation):

- **Rome: Hotel Scenario******
- **Suggested hotels {subject to availability upon your confirmation):Paris:**
 - **Paris Auteuil Tour Eiffel ******
 - **Le Tronchet : Hotel de l' Abbaye * * * ***
 - **Lisieux: Kyriad Lisieux ******
 - **Lourdes: Hotel Eliseo******
 - **Avila : Parader de Avila******
 - **Fatima : Hotel Santa Maria ******