



Fr. Akila Rodrigo

Marian Shrines Pilgrimage

October 7-18, 2024

(12 days)

\$4,999 from Pittsburgh

View a video with helpful information about traveling with Unitours at www.Unitours.com/traveler



THIS PILGRIMAGE INCLUDES:

- Round trip airfare on American Airlines
- Breakfast and dinner per itinerary
- Specialty selected hotel accommodations
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- Full-time tour manager
- Departure tax and current fuel charge



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Dear Travelers,

I'm inviting you to join our pilgrimage I'm hosting to Europe as part of St. James Parish's 100th Anniversary celebration. On our 12 day tour, we'll visit Santiago de Compostela, Spain where St. James is buried, the Shrine of Our Lady of Fátima in Portugal and the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. For those of you who don't know me, I am the pastor of St. James the Greater, Sacred Heart Mission and St. Ann's all located in Harrison County, West Virginia.



Our pilgrimage is focused both on important holy sites for Catholics and on experiencing the art, architecture and natural beauty of Spain, Portugal and France. Other highlights include walking part of a Camino that St. James walked to spread the Good News and visiting the world famous Sagrada Familia (Holy Family) Cathedral and Güell Park in Barcelona designed by the genius artist Antonio Gaudí.

Our pilgrimage is from October 7 - 18, 2024 and departs from Pittsburgh. The cost is \$4999 per person (double occupancy) which includes flights, modern motor coach transportation, hotels, breakfast, dinner, a full-time Tour Operator and English-speaking tour guides. Other costs include beverages, optional travel insurance for \$245.00 and money for incidentals and souvenirs.

I've chosen Unitours, Inc. to organize our pilgrimage as it's one of the largest tour operators in the world and has conducted pilgrimages since 1957. Please contact me with your questions. I'm looking forward to experiencing this trip of a lifetime with you!

Sincerely,

Fr. Akila Rodrigo

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Round trip airfare on American Airlines

Breakfast and dinner per itinerary

Specially selected hotel accommodations

Air-conditioned motor coach

Full-time tour manager

Departure tax and current fuel charge

For Information & Reservations Contact:

Fr. Akila Rodrigo

St James Parish, 2107 Pride Avenue, Clarksburg WV 26301

Tel: (304) 622-1668 • Email: stjamesparishclarksburg@gmail.com

Jenny L. Santilli, Parish Coordinator

Tel: (304) 476-5623 • Email: jennysantilli@gmail.com

Have questions about this pilgrimage? Ask us! Go to www.Unitours.com/questions.

Unitours will provide the travel arrangements for this tour. You will discover joining us is a wise choice, given Unitours' extensive worldwide reputation for quality tours since 1957. Under the same American ownership since its founding, Unitours maintains close partners in Tel Aviv, Athens, Italy and London. Unitours has arranged for your transfers, hotels, meals, air-conditioned motor coach, English-speaking guides of the highest quality, sites for your Masses and other services along the way and every detail. You can rest assured that Unitours' financial security, attention to detail and high standard of service will assure you the most memorable travel experience.



ITINERARY

Monday – October 7- DAY 1 – DEPART – We depart from Pittsburgh for our overnight flight to Lisbon. We enjoy in-flight movies, dinner, and breakfast aloft before arriving in Lisbon, Portugal the next day.

Tuesday – October 8 – DAY 2 – LISBON/SANTAREM/FATIMA – We are met and given a short orientation tour of Lisbon before the drive to Fatima. We stop along the way to celebrate Mass at the Church of the famous Eucharistic Miracle at Santarem. In the evening, we join the International Rosary Procession in Fatima. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Wednesday – October 9 – DAY 3 – FATIMA – This full day is devoted to visiting the Basilica and Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima and nearby hamlets of Aljustrel and Valinhos. We join the English language concelebrated Mass at the Chapel of Apparitions. We visit the birthplaces of Francisco, Jacinta and Lucia, the Loca de Anjo and the Holy Way. In the evening, we again join the International Rosary Procession. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Thursday – October 10 – DAY 4 – FATIMA/SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA – Today we depart Fatima, passing by the ancient capital and university city of Coimbra, where Lucia, the last Fatima visionary, lived as a cloistered nun. At a particularly beautiful location, we stop to walk with the pilgrims for a short time along The Coastal Portuguese Camino Route. (No more than 1-2 hours walking before the bus picks the group up.) We continue northwards into Spain and on to Santiago de Compostela, where St. James (“Santiago” in Spanish) is buried. This world-famous Shrine of Santiago is one of only three locations where the tomb of one of Jesus’ Apostles can be visited: St. James in Spain, St. Peter’s in Rome and St. Thomas in India. St. James preached here for seven years before returning to the Holy Land where he was beheaded in A.D. 44. He is credited with the conversion of Spain. On arrival this afternoon, we enjoy a visit to the Cathedral and the Old City here. To commemorate our parish’s 100th Anniversary, we celebrate a special Mass at the Cathedral alongside the relics of our church’s patron saint. While dinner is included at our hotel, the adventurous might consider enjoying the varied delights of the Galatian restaurants in the nearby Old City.

Friday – October 11 – DAY 5 – SANTIAGO/SANTANDER – Following breakfast, our morning is free for prayer, rest or enjoying this ancient city. Our tour manager can offer suggestions for local sites to see. We gather back at the cathedral in Santiago to participate in the Pilgrim’s Mass at 12 noon followed by lunch on our own. Afterwards, we head east to Santander along the coastal “Pilgrim’s Route of St. James.” We enjoy the wonderful scenery as the roads hug the northern Spanish seacoast. Dinner and overnight in our Santander hotel.

Saturday – October 12 – DAY 6 – SANTANDER/GUERNICA/LOURDES – This morning we continue our drive. Lunch on our own is taken in Guernica where Pablo Picasso’s most famous painting was inspired. In April 1937, under Spanish Dictator Francisco Franco’s orders, German and Italian air forces bombed Guernica, turning it into a pile of rubble. Over 1,000 civilians died and 85% of the town’s buildings were completely destroyed. Picasso’s painting, completed months after the bombing, quickly gained monumental status and traveled extensively throughout Europe where it rose to fame as a statement against the barbarity of war. Even Hitler sought to acquire it and destroy it. After the end of the Spanish Civil War, “Guernica” was exhibited in the US, in an attempt to raise funds for Spanish war refugees. We proceed to our hotel in Lourdes for dinner and overnight. In the evening, we join the Torchlight Rosary Procession.

Sunday – October 13 – DAY 7 – LOURDES – This day is spent in devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes. We celebrate Mass at the Grotto, with a morning orientation visit to the Shrine and a walking tour of Lourdes, visiting Boly Mill, where St. Bernadette was born, the Cachot, formerly used as a jail, where she lived during the apparitions, and the parish church. This afternoon is free for private devotions, Eucharistic Procession, the Blessing of the Sick or the legendary, healing waters of the miraculous Lourdes spring. Dinner and overnight at our hotel. In the evening, we may once again join the Torchlight Marian Procession.

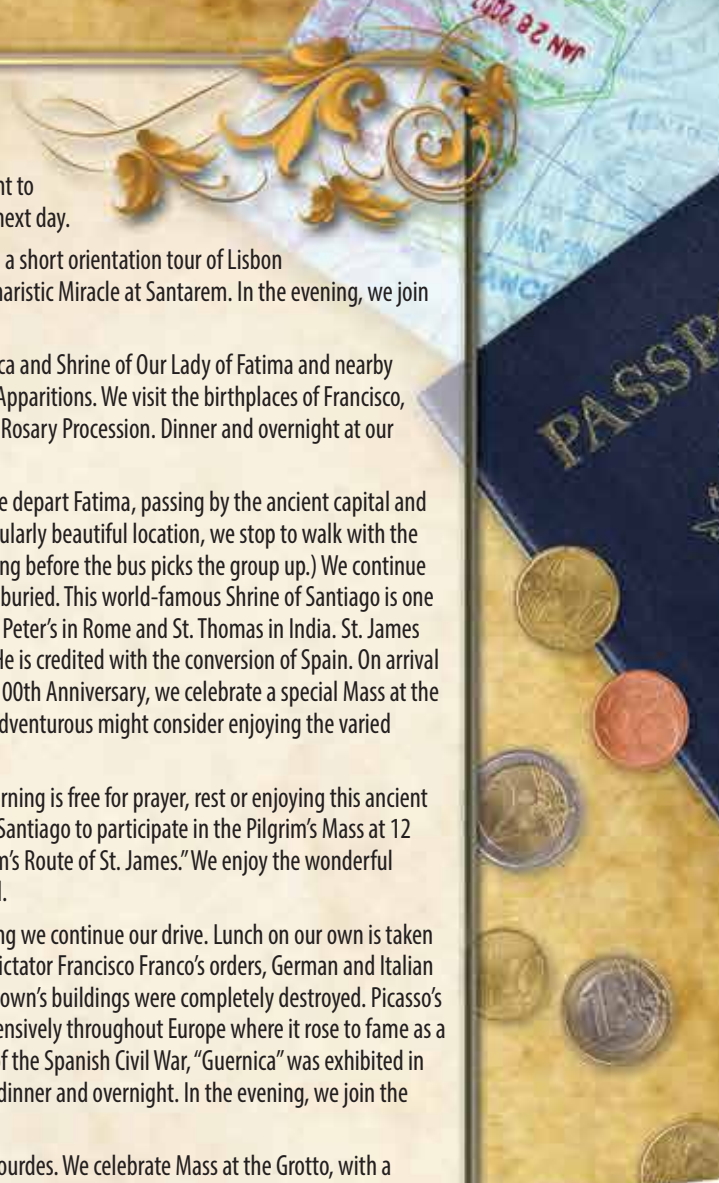
Monday – October 14 – Columbus Day – DAY 8 – LOURDES/ZARAGOZA – This morning we depart Lourdes and traverse the Pyrenees mountains entering northern Spain. We continue eastward to Zaragoza, a city founded by the Romans with luxuriant vegetation, cascades and grottos. Some call it the Switzerland of arid upper Aragon. This city was also the birthplace of Goya, whose works grace many of the sites we visit. This is #1 Marian shrine of Spain, the Pilar Basilica, and commemorates apparitions of Our Lady the Pillar to St. James in 40 A.D. We celebrate Mass here, if possible. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Tuesday – October 15 – St. Teresa of Avila – DAY 9 – ZARAGOZA/ MONTSERRAT – This morning we drive to Montserrat on the outskirts of Barcelona and celebrate Mass at the famous Benedictine Monastery that holds the famed Black Madonna. In March of 1522, the founder of the Jesuit order, St. Ignatius of Loyola, came as a pilgrim to Montserrat and placed his sword before the Black Madonna and exchanged his fancy clothes for those of a beggar. If possible, we enjoy the midday music of the famous boys’ choir here. Dinner and overnight at our Monastery hotel here.

Wednesday – October 16 – DAY 10 – MONTSERRAT/BARCELONA – This morning we drive to Barcelona to celebrate Mass at the Cathedral. Following a tour of the Cathedral, we enjoy a morning on the streets of Barcelona’s Gothic quarter including the famous open markets of the Ramblas. After lunch on our own, we see the important new developments at the pleasure port where many of the Olympic events were held in 1992. We enjoy a spectacular view from the top of the Montjuic hill before returning to Montserrat for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

Thursday – October 17 – Day 11 – BARCELONA – Our final day of our pilgrimage begins with a trip to the spectacular unfinished Basilica of La Sagrada Familia, the crown jewel of Antonio Gaudi’s architectural works. We join the 9 a.m. Mass in the crypt, celebrated in the local language of Barcelona, “Catalan”. Afterwards, we enjoy a tour of the church that has been described as both a sandcastle and something out of a fairytale. Following lunch on our own, we visit the Unesco World Heritage “Park Guell” one of Gaudi’s Masterpieces of “landscape architecture.” We remain in Barcelona to cap our pilgrimage off with a festive farewell dinner in a local Catalan restaurant before returning to Montserrat for overnight at our hotel.

Friday – October 18 – DAY 12 – RETURN – We transfer to the Barcelona airport for our flight home to Clarksburg with unforgettable memories to cherish always.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Total Tour Price: The tour price is based on airfare, cruise, land rates and rates of exchange in effect August 16, 2024. All rates are subject to change without prior notice. Should the rates go up or down, an adjustment would be made prior to departure. Refunds CANNOT be granted for any accommodations, services or events that are not used nor if you deviate from the tour. If fewer than 30 pilgrims participate a price adjustment may be necessary.

Passport And Visa Requirements: A valid passport is required. At the time of printing, U.S. citizens holding valid passports DO NOT REQUIRE visas or immunization for the country or countries being visited. Passport MUST be valid until April 18, 2025, or later. Citizens of countries other than U.S. – please contact the consulate of the country or countries being visited to determine visa requirements.

Air Transportation: International flight reservations are being held on American Airlines. No stopovers are permitted. Any changes after tickets are issued carries a mandatory charge of \$200. Once the tickets are issued, they are NON-TRANSFERABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE. Any requests to change a ticket once issued will incur a reissue fee of \$200 plus any fare differential will apply. Cancellation of air seat within 90 days of departure will incur a \$200 penalty.

Domestic Airfare: For those who make domestic air arrangements to the originating city of this tour, your tour host and Unitours strongly recommend the purchase of tickets that can be changed without heavy fees and penalties as international flight schedules are always subject to change.

Hotel Accommodations: Specially selected hotels based on twin occupancy with private bath. Single Room supplement of \$526 will be charged where requested and available. If you do not have a roommate and Unitours is unable to arrange one, you will be billed for the single room supplement. All singles are subject to availability.

Meals: Breakfast and Table D' Hote dinners are provided daily except where noted in the itinerary. An extra charge will be made when coffee, tea or other beverages are not included in the menu of the day with the dinner meal.

Tips And Taxes: Tips and taxes normally appearing on hotel and restaurant bills as service are included, as are all government and local taxes on hotels and meals, portorage of one suitcase per person. International departure taxes of \$107 plus current fuel surcharges of \$400 are included (subject to change). TIPS TO TOUR MANAGER/GUIDES, DRIVERS OR DINING ROOMS STAFF OF \$117 ARE NOT INCLUDED. One average sized suitcase not exceeding 50 lbs total weight and 62 linear inches (height plus width plus depth) is permitted throughout the trip.

Not Included: Expenses and items not specifically mentioned in this brochure are NOT covered, including but not limited to: passport and visa fees, meals not listed and items of a personal nature such as laundry, wines, liquors, mineral waters, after dinner coffee or tea, sightseeing or services other than those specifically mentioned, tips and taxes mentioned above, excess baggage and insurance, etc.

Deposits And Cancellations: A deposit of \$500 is required to secure reservations. Any balance is to be paid in full no later than 60 days before departure of tour. Final payments received by Unitours after 45 days before departure must include a \$25 late payment fee. (This does not apply for new reservations made within 45 days of departure.) Reservations made within 60 days of departure must include full payment. Amex, Discover, Visa and MasterCard are accepted with signed reservation form. Final payments will be applied to same credit card on final payment due date including insurance. Cancellations made from time of reservation to within 61 days prior to departure – \$400 administration fee (charged to deposit) plus any air penalties noted above. In the event of a cancellation from 60 to 31 days prior to departure – \$400 administration fee plus up to 50% of the land cost, plus any air penalties noted above. No refund for cancellations received within 30 days of departure. All cancellation and refund claims must be in writing to Unitours, Inc.

Bank Fee: A fee of \$50 will be charged for any check that is returned to us for insufficient or unavailable funds.

Deviations: A service charge of \$50 pp will be applied for any deviations made in tour, (where possible), PLUS any additional air or land charges incurred.

Travel Insurance: Optional Travel Insurance is strongly recommended for your trip. See www.Unitours.com/TravelInsurance for full details. Cost of travel insurance for this trip starts at \$245. To cover preexisting conditions, insurance must be purchased with your reservation. (See reservation form). If paying by check, add insurance cost to your deposit. Insurance can also be purchased at the time of your final payment.

Land Arrangements: The tour operator reserves the right to change the itinerary due to unforeseen emergencies.

Responsibilities: Unitours, Inc., the organizer, and their representatives act only as agents for the tour members in making arrangements for hotels, transportation, sightseeing, restaurants or any other services in connection with the itinerary. They will exercise reasonable care in making such arrangements, however, they do not assume any liability whatsoever, for any injury, damage, loss, accident or delay to person or property because of any acts of war or terrorism, any act of default of any hotel, carrier, restaurant, company or person rendering any of the services included in the tours. The tickets, coupons, tariffs, rules or contracts currently in use by any carrier, hotel, restaurant or other contractor rendering services shall constitute the sole contract between such contractor and the tour member. Unitours Inc., or the organizer, accept no responsibility for any damage or delay due to sickness, pilferage, labor disputes, machinery breakdown, quarantine, government restraints, weather or any other cause beyond their personal control. No carrier shall be responsible for any act, omission or events during the time passengers are not on board its own conveyance. The right is reserved to cancel or change itineraries or substitute services without notice and to decline to accept or retain any passenger at any time. In view of statutory or contractual limitations that may apply to personal injury or property damage losses the purchase of accident and baggage insurance is strongly recommended. Optional travel insurance offered by Unitours must be paid with your final payment.

Errors: In case of printing, typographical errors, computer errors, verbal or human billing errors, we reserve the right to invoice or re-invoice participants with corrected billing.

Marian Shrines Pilgrimage *with Fr. Akila Rodrigo*

October 7 – 18, 2024 – 12 Days – \$4,999 from Pittsburgh

Please complete and mail to:

Fr. Akila Rodrigo, St James Parish, 2107 Pride Avenue, Clarksburg WV 26301

Please reserve _____ seat (s) on this trip. Enclosed please find deposit of _____ (\$500 per person). Make check payable to UNITOURS, INC.

Please enclose a copy of your passport (must be valid until April 18, 2025 or after.)

TO BOOK THIS TRIP ONLINE, CLICK HERE

Name(s) (as it appears on passport) _____ My roommate is: _____

Name(s) to use on nametag(s) _____ Please assign me a roommate (if available)

Address: _____ I prefer a single room (\$526 additional, availability limited)

City, State, Zip: _____ I/we wish to purchase optional travel insurance starting at \$245 per person now in order to cover pre-existing conditions (See "Travel Insurance" on pilgrimage Terms for price and details.)

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Charge my deposit to: Visa MasterCard AmericanExpress Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature (Required) _____

I understand that certain charges such as air taxes, fuel surcharges and rates of exchange can affect the final cost and I agree to pay such costs should adjustments be necessary. I have read and understand the deposit and cancellation fees. Signature: _____