

SALES MANUAL



SPIRITUALITY EXCEEDING YOUR IMAGINATION

ALTÖTTING

CZĘSTOCHOWA

EINSIEDELN

FÁTIMA

LORETO

LOURDES

MARIAZELL

SHRINES OF EUROPE

ASSOCIATION



The Shrines Of Europe - Association of European Shrines Cities, is formed by seven municipalities that host important marian pilgrimage locations:

- Altötting — Germany
- Częstochowa — Poland
- Einsiedeln — Switzerland
- Fátima/Ourém — Portugal
- Loreto — Italy
- Lourdes — France
- Mariazell — Austria

These seven cities have in common the ecumenical and spiritual vocation of the pilgrimages, the similarities between the territories, the socio-economic and urban development that justify the cooperation between our European municipalities.

Based on these aspects, the association works to provide the best possible experience for the travelers that visit our countries, promoting the association, through a cultural network, based on institutional and private partnerships.

Over the past 25 years, the Shrines of Europe Association developed several initiatives such as sharing knowledge, good management, and planning practices in a committed and cooperative way. During this time, all the partners organized several conferences and international meetings focused on the challenges of religious tourism and social and cultural dynamics associated with pilgrimages.

However, given the new demands and needs, the association's work has been restructured over time. Hence, on the 4th of December 2020, the partners founded the "**The Shrines of Europe - Association of European Shrine Cities**". This association aims to improve the responses to the needs and preferences of pilgrims and travelers. We work to establish the connection between all the promoters associated with religious tourism by providing services and products that support religious activities, itineraries, cultural experiences, and the communication of festivals and traditions, which are part of the cultural and historical heritage of every territory.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Enjoy one of the most beautiful times of the year to discover the Shrines of Europe cities. Advent, the preparation for Christmas is a very special time of the year filled with lots of customs and traditions. The Christmas markets are one of them. The smell of roasted almonds, bratwurst and mulled wine captivates visitors and a good choice of regional craftsmanship is offered, among them nativity figures. Nativity scenes that are put up in private homes and churches and also finely curated nativity scene exhibitions are a special tradition. Every region has their own style of staging the birth of Jesus Christ. In the Shrines of Europe cities you can admire beautiful nativity scenes are on display.

Among the Shrines of Europe cities, do not miss these Christmas markets :

- Christmas market **Altötting**
- Christmas market **Mariazell**
- Christmas market **Einsiedeln**
- Christmas market **Częstochowa**



NATURE & SERENITY

Take a trip closer to nature and recharge yourself by discovering the Shrines of Europe cities. What better than natural mountain spaces to contemplate the beauties of creation in all seasons. Hike in Austrian mountains in summer, ski in the area close to Einsiedeln, discover The Eagles' Nests Trail near Częstochowa. Let the landscapes, the lakes, the fauna and the flora reveal their secrets to you and gain height.

Among the Shrines of Europe cities, do not miss these naturals beauties :

- **Mariazell** : hiking, biking, downhill biking, swimming, SUP and wake surfing in summer. Skiing, snowboarding, luge, cross country skiing and hiking in winter
- **Einsiedeln** : skiing/cross-country skiing in winter and hiking/ biking in summer
- **Częstochowa** : The Eagles' Nests Trail



CULTURE & DISCOVERING

Feed your mind and your curiosity by discovering the Shrines of Europe cities and their treasure and cultural richness.

Among the Shrines of Europe cities, do not miss these cultural places:

- **Fátima** : Municipal Museum
- **Lourdes** : Pyrenean museum
- **Altötting** : Treasury with the famous Golden horse
Can be seen from the walkway of the Basilica
- **Einsiedeln** : Werner Oechslin Library Foundation
- **Częstochowa** : Municipal Art Gallery, Częstochowa Museum, Cultural Promotion Center Gaude Mater



MEDIEVAL CASTLES

Why not taking a seat in our time machine, that transports you back to medieval times ? In and near the Shrines of Europe cities you can find breath taking castles and fortresses that date back to the Middle Ages.



Among the Shrines of Europe cities, do not miss these medieval castles:

- **Częstochowa** : Olsztyn Castle
- **Fátima** : Castle of Ourém
- **Lourdes** : Castle of Lourdes
- **Altötting** : Burghausen castle





ALTÖTTING

THE HEART OF BAVARIA

1489 marks the beginning of the pilgrimage to Altoetting in veneration of the Virgin Mary. Two healing miracles are reported from that year with the first one being described as follows: A young boy fell into a nearby river. The mother brought the lifeless boy to the small Chapel with the statue of a Madonna. Asking for mother mary's intercession and praying in the chapel, the boy became alive again. Altoetting developed as the most important place of pilgrimage in veneration of the Virgin Mary in Germany and above all in Bavaria being its national sanctuary. The Bavarian prince electors and kings started a tradition in the 17th century to have their hearts buried in decorated gold and silver urnes in the Chapel of Grace. Among them also the "Fairytale" king Ludwig II.

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF ALTÖTTING

The most important church in Altötting is the small Chapel of Grace in the middle of the vast baroque chapel square. This is the Shrine of Our Lady of Altötting, also called the "black Madonna". All year round holy masses take place at the shrine every morning from 6 am to 11 am starting every full hour. Rosary everyday at 6 pm. From May to October: Candlelight procession every Saturday evening at 9 pm. Next to the Chapel of Grace Altötting offers a wide variety of churches, the Collegiate and Parish Church, St. Magdalene Church, St. Conrad Church and the Basilica St. Anne.

Several pilgrimage services take place in the different churches as well as confessions and consecration of devotional objects. Holy Masses and services are in german.

www.altoetting.de/en/tourism-altoetting/pilgrimage/

We are welcoming international groups

International groups travelling with their own priest can request a holy mass or prayer. Depending on day, time and group size, they are assigned to one of the churches in Altötting, all of them located directly around the Chapel Square. Guided tours of Altötting include explanation of the Chapel of Grace, the history of pilgrimage and a visit to the most important churches around the Chapel Square.





ALTÖTTING IN 1 DAY

Discover Altötting – the heart of Bavaria

Start the day with a guided city tour and discover the small but famous Chapel of Grace with its more than 2.000 votive tablets that are displayed in the Chapel Walkway. You will get to know the most important facts about the history of pilgrimage. You will hear about emperors, kings and popes that visited Altötting throughout the more than 500 years of pilgrimage tradition. Did you know that king Ludwig II, the famous Bavarian fairy tale king has his heart buried in the Chapel of Grace?

Celebrate a holy Mass in Altötting

In the afternoon, indulge yourself more into the history of pilgrimage and visit the Treasury and Pilgrimage Museum where you can find the bridal wreath of the Austrian Empress Sissi or visit the Jerusalem Panorama, a circular painting that shows the Crucifixion of Christ. If you are interested in incense – you are at the right place, visit the small incense museum in Altötting.

Enjoy a cup of coffee in one of the restaurants at the baroque Chapel Square, or even taste a chocolate made with incense.

ALTÖTTING IN 3 DAYS

Day 1: Altötting – the heart of Bavaria (see left)

Day 2: Excursion to Marktl and Burghausen

The small village Marktl is the birthplace of the Bavarian pope Benedict XVI. He grew up in the region around Altötting and since his childhood is deeply connected to this place of pilgrimage. Visit his birthplace which is nowadays a beautiful museum highlighting the pontificate of Benedict XVI. Altötting – Marktl 30 minutes by bus. Continue to Burghausen an enchanting city housing the world's longest medieval fortress. The impressive fortress is 1 kilometer long, you can take a walk or enjoy a guided tour along the castle. At its foot you can find the historic city center and on the other side an enchanting lake to enjoy a summer visit. Altötting – Burghausen 30 minutes by bus.

Day 3: Lake Chiemsee with Herrenchiemsee castle

Excursion to lake Chiemsee (also surnamed as the “Bavarian ocean”) a beautiful summer destination. Visit the two islands, the “Men’s Island” with the beautiful castle Herrenchiemsee, built by the Bavarian fairytale king Ludwig II. And modelled after the world-famous Versailles near Paris. Continue by boat to the smaller island the “women’s island” with a historic abbey and famous for restaurants, fishing and handicraft.

OUR CRUSHES, ATYPICAL PLACES TO VISIT !

- Christmas Market in Altötting - one of the nicest times in Altötting
- Diorama show with audio guide to learn about the early pilgrimage history in Altötting
- Incense museum
- Bavarian beer: Visit to a local brewery with beer tasting





CZĘSTOCHOWA

A CITY OF CULTURAL, RELIGIOUS AND NATIONAL HERITAGE

Częstochowa has a population of around 200 000 inhabitants and is the main pilgrimage centre of Poland. It is also an academic, cultural and industrial centre, bringing together life of the northern part of the Silesian Voivodship. With its well-developed accommodation and catering facilities as well as convenient transport connection, it is a gateway to the picturesque region of the Krakow-Częstochowa Upland with its limestone rocks and numerous caves.

The centuries-old tradition of pilgrimages on foot to Jasna Góra is a cultural phenomenon on a global scale, with which the history of Częstochowa is inseparably linked. People were already settling in the Częstochowa Highlands in the Stone Age.

In Częstochowa itself, Iron Age cemeteries and traces of a pagan settlement have been preserved. After the death of King Casimir the Great, to whom the region owes some of its castles on the Eagles' Nests Route, Częstochowa became the fiefdom of Duke Vladislaus of Opole. It was he who decided on its further development by founding the Pauline Monastery on Jasna Góra and achieving city rights.

Until the end of the 18th century, the city of Częstochowa and Częstochówka neighbouring to Jasna Góra developed in parallel. The Avenue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is the shortest link between the Old Town, the Monastery and New Częstochowa, leading pilgrims to their destination - the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa placed in a chapel in the Jasna Góra Sanctuary.



JASNA GÓRA SANCTUARY

Jasna Góra (English: Bright Hill, Latin: Clarus Mons) is a sanctuary with a monastery of the Order of the Pauline Fathers in Częstochowa, situated on a hill. It is the most important place of Marian devotion and the most important pilgrimage centre for Catholics in Poland. It houses the icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa, which is considered miraculous, as well as a collection of many other works of art, mostly sacred, which are votive gifts from the faithful. The place became particularly meaningful for Poles after Jasna Góra was defended against Swedish troops in 1655 during the Polish-Swedish war, known as the «Deluge». In 1717, Pope Clement XI decided to coronate the Icon of Jasna Góra. It was the first coronation of the Icon of Our Lady with Baby Jesus on Polish soil, established by a papal decree and carried out outside Rome. The Jasna Góra Sanctuary has been visited by three popes so far: St John Paul II (six times), Benedict XVI and Francis.

OUR CRUSHES, ATYPICAL PLACES TO VISIT !

- The Częstochowa Museum
- Archaeological reserve
- Museum of Częstochowa Jews
- Museum of Coins and Medals of John Paul II
- Murals - urban art at its best
- The Poetry House
- Old Market Square



CZĘSTOCHOWA IN 1 DAY

Częstochowa - spiritual capital of Poland

Start the day with a visit to the must-see Jasna Góra Sanctuary. The Chapel of the Miraculous Icon of Our Lady of Częstochowa is the central part of the Pauline Monastery. It is here that Poland's most famous painting of Virgin Mary and Baby Jesus, the so-called Black Madonna, is exhibited.

After visiting the sanctuary, it is worthwhile to take a walk along Blessed Virgin Mary Avenue, where numerous restaurants and cafes are located, take a rest in the green enclave on the main square in Częstochowa - Władysław Biegański Square, visit the Częstochowa Museum with its exhibition on the city and climb (or take the lift) the Town tower, which offers a magnificent panorama of Częstochowa.

CZĘSTOCHOWA IN 3 DAYS

Day 1: Częstochowa - spiritual capital of Poland (see left)

Day 2: Art and history united

On the second day of your stay in Częstochowa, you should visit an unusual art gallery located in the southern part of the city. Fans of street art will be delighted with the large format and paintings integrated into the industrial space which creates a backdrop for the Iron Oxide festival held here every year. Continuing your visit to this part of the city, a visit to one of Europe's largest historical Jewish cemeteries, a testimony to the city's multicultural history, is a must. The unique, disturbing, almost magical atmosphere of this place is enhanced by hundreds of decorated gravestones in a dense forest overgrown with ivy. This part of the trip should be finished in the Archaeological Reserve presenting the burial ground of the Lusatian culture preserved in its original place. Here you can see with your own eyes the unique artefacts from the early Iron Age, including a rich collection of jewellery, or the evidence of one of the first successful skull trepanations in the history of mankind.

Day 3: Look deep into nature

Pilgrims and tourists coming to Częstochowa will certainly be interested in the Museum of Coins and Medals of John Paul II, which collection includes over 11 thousand exhibits, allowing to get to know the history of the pontificate of the Polish Pope from a slightly different perspective. The collection presented here is the largest of its kind in the world. However, it should be remembered that Częstochowa is not only about museums and history, in this city you can really rest and relax in the bosom of nature after a day full of excitement and attractions. A fragment of the valley of the city's main river, called the Mirów Gorge of the Warta River, is a unique natural treasure. Flora and fauna rarely seen in other regions can be admired on the way to the Sanctuary of St. Padre Pio on the Przeprośna Górka (Pardoning Hill), from where many pilgrims set off on the last leg of their journey to Jasna Góra. After a long journey, it will be hard to deny yourself a rest, for example in the extensive Lisiniec Park, located near the Jasna Góra Sanctuary. On a beach with sand brought from the Baltic coast, we will be able to relax on the shores of the Adriatic, the Baltic and the Pacific, the three bodies of water named after the seas and the ocean. All the attractions on offer are at your fingertips, all you have to do is reach out.





EINSIEDELN

THE HEART OF CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

As the most important Marian shrine in Switzerland and the home of a vital monastic community following the Rule of Saint Benedict, the Abbey of «Our Lady of Einsiedeln» welcomes pilgrims and tourists alike from Switzerland and around the world. The history of the abbey dates back to 934 when a monastic community gathered where the hermit Saint Meinrad died as a «martyr of hospitality» in 861. The famous statue of Mary and her son Jesus Christ, known as the «Black Madonna», is from the 15th century and stands inside the Holy Chapel. The «Black Madonna» and the medieval legend of the miraculous dedication of her chapel has made Einsiedeln one of the most famous pilgrimage sites in Europe.

BENEDICTINE ABBEY AND SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF EINSIEDELN

Abbey Church

Einsiedeln Abbey is one of the most important baroque buildings north of the Alps and the largest church in Switzerland. The magnificent baroque abbey church was dedicated in 1735. The abbey interior is adorned with the frescoes and ornamental plasterwork of the brothers Cosmas Damian and Egid Quirin Aam. These merge with the architecture to imbue the abbey with sumptuous splendour that is typical of the late baroque period.

Chapel of Our Lady

The Chapel of Our Lady occupies the place where St. Meinrad lived originally a «chapel of hermits», legend has it that it was consecrated by angels. The present late Gothic statue of «Our Lady of Einsiedeln» found its way into the chapel following a fire in the 15th century. Over the centuries smoke from candles, oil lamps and incense blackened the lime-wood figure, until finally in 1803 the face and hands were painted over with black paint. Very early on Mary and the baby Jesus were draped in cloth that left only their faces and hands exposed. Today they possess a handsome wardrobe of



splendid garments. They are dressed according to the religious feast days and festivals.

Cultural Heritage: Abbey Library

The Benedictine abbey is not only a place of spirituality, but also of education. Accessible only on guided tours, the library contains manuscripts and books dating back to the founding of the monastery in 934. Its cultural treasures include an archive containing documents tracing monastic life back to the 10th century.

Tour of the abbey and library: www.eyz.swiss/kloster
Check our offers for groups: www.eyz.swiss/gruppen

EINSIEDELN IN 1 DAY

Einsiedeln in 1 day

The region Einsiedeln offers you a variety of exciting deals in the areas of culture, cuisine, history and sport.

The magnificent baroque monastery building and the Chapel of Grace with the Black Madonna are the main attractions that many visitors come to see in Einsiedeln. Guided tours of the Abbey and its library, with its century-old book culture, are held daily (except Sundays and holidays).

Celebrating an individual mass is on request.

The monastery has bred its own horses since the Middle Ages; parts of the stables of the Cavalli della Madonna are open to the public.

In the afternoon visit the Diorama Bethlehem, the Christmas Crib with 450 figures, the Mineral Museum and the Panorama, monumental panorama painting with the Crucifixion of Christ. A delicious Einsiedeln specialties from a tradition-steeped establishment you will find in the Gingerbread museum Goldapfel.

Did you know that the Salve Regina, a choral song in several voices, is sung in the Chapel of Grace every day around 4.30 pm ?

OUR CRUSHES, ATYPICAL PLACES TO VISIT !

- Walk on Einsiedeln Way of Cross
- DiaVision slide show, detailing the life and spirituality of Einsiedeln's monks
- Dairy factory with viewing ramp, restaurant and shop
- Charming Einsiedeln Christmas Market



EINSIEDELN IN 3 DAYS

Day 1: Einsiedeln in 1 day (see left)

Day 2: Excursion around Einsiedeln

Take a guided tour in the Show Cheese Factory Milchmanufaktur, on the Ski-Jumping Hills of Einsiedeln or book Cruises on MS Angelika on Lake Sihl.

Day 3: Explore the Einsiedeln region

Those who love hiking will find both simple and challenging routes. In addition, nature lovers can explore the beautiful mountains, meadows and forests by mountain bike or race down into the valley on a giant push scooter. Airboarding, paragliding and many other sports are also possible.

In winter, the Einsiedeln region is truly magical. You are sure to find activity to your liking – such as downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, ice skating or winter hiking, as well as bathing and wellness or cultural events.





FÁTIMA

THE MYSTERY OF PORTUGAL

On 13 May 1917, the little shepherds Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco, who were shepherding their animals in the Cova da Iria lands, witnessed the apparition of Our Lady. The apparitions were repeated five more times over the following months, until 13 October. On this day, in front of thousands of people, the miracle of the sun happened. As these events became known over the country, the Cova da Iria became a popular location. Hundreds of people, in pilgrimage, started to visit this place, within popular devotion that consolidated the phenomenon. The building of the Little Chapel of the Apparitions, in 1919, through a people's initiative, was a response to what the Little Shepherds claimed to be a request from Our Lady, coming from Heaven. This building would become to gain emblematic strength and establish the place as sacred. With her message of peace, the image of Our Lady of Fátima and the Shrine of Fátima have been consecrated on a worldwide scale, with a unique spiritual element that transcends all religions. Fátima is acknowledged as the City of Peace, where tolerance and multicultural dialogue cross paths with open arms for the millions of pilgrims and visitors who come here every year from a spiritual and religious point of view.

SHRINE OF FÁTIMA

The Shrine of Fátima is a sacred space of faith and spirituality, ideal for a personal retreat. In this multicultural environment you will find a unique and incomparable inner peace. The Little Chapel of the Apparitions stands in the same place where the Virgin Mary appeared to the three little shepherds and where about 70 000 pilgrims witnessed the so-called Miracle of the Sun. In the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, the three little shepherds are buried: Lucia dos Santos, Francisco and Jacinta Marto.

www.fatima.pt





FÁTIMA IN 1 DAY

Fátima in 1 day

Start the day with by visiting the shrine of Fátima. On the afternoon, go to Aljustrel - Valinhos, it is an iconic place for Fátima apparitions believers, an Angel appeared in 1916 and the Virgin Mary on 19 August 1917 in this place. In Valinhos, besides the stations of the way of cross that lead us to the Hungarian Calvary, you can visit Saint Stephen Chapel, whose stained-glass windows show different Hungarian saints. Aljustrel is the place where the Little Shepherds were born and lived. The houses of this village preserve their original structure, classified as buildings of public interest. At night finish the day by a candlelight procession (every day at 9:30 pm at the Little Chapel).

OUR CRUSHES, ATYPICAL PLACES TO VISIT !

- Aljustrel - valinhos
- Medieval village of Ourém
- Shrine of our Lady of Ortiga
- Natural monument of dinosaurs footprints
- House of the administrator - Municipal museum of ourém
- Agroal fluvial beach - wooden walkways



FÁTIMA IN 3 DAYS

Day 1: Fátima in 1 day (see left)

Day 2: Ourém and the agroal fluvial beach

In the morning, visit the House of the administrator - Municipal museum of Ourém. It was the former home of the historic Council Administrator, Artur de Oliveira Santos, linked to the Fátima Apparitions because it hosted the three little shepherds, between 13th and 15th August 1917. Today, it is the Municipal Museum of Ourém that focuses on the study and dissemination of the representation of the cultural identity and heritage of Ourém. Then stroll in the narrow streets of the medieval village of Ourém which was a strategic construction location in Portugal. Features the imposing castle and palace of the Counts of Ourém. Standing 330 meters above sea level, you can enjoy one of the most beautiful landscapes in Portugal.

In the afternoon, get to know one of the region's natural treasures and take a cold dip in the Agroal water spring. This river beach is a true paradise for anyone looking to enjoy a peaceful day in close contact with the surrounding natural landscape. You can also enjoy a walk along the Agroal walkways, which is approximately 800 meters long to deeply connect with nature.

Day 3: Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ortiga, Natural Monument of Carenque and the path of Ortiga

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ortiga provides a magnificent panoramic view over the Serra de Aire and the Castle and Palace of the Counts of Ourém. Folk tradition tells us that Our Lady first appeared to a voiceless little shepherdess and asked her for a sheep. The shepherdess gained a voice and answered that she could not give a sheep without her father's permission. Hearing the daughter's voice, the happy father told her to give the Lady anything she wanted, and then Our Lady asked him to build a chapel there.

The Natural Monument of the Dinosaur Footprints of Ourém has twenty unexplored trails and over one thousand footsteps and can be found in Bairro, in the heart of the Serras de Aire e Candeeiros Natural Park. Travel back in time and watch the footsteps of some of the greatest creatures that ever inhabited planet Earth. This unique experience in Portugal is suitable for all ages, and it is the perfect opportunity for a family trip.

Approximately 2,5 kilometers long, the path of Ortiga links the Fátima Parish Church and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ortiga through an environmentally sustainable pedestrian and cycling pathway. It is the perfect route for those who love physical activity and want to enjoy nature safely. Fátima also has five trail routes with different distances and difficulty levels, allowing you to walk and have close contact with the surrounding landscape.



LORETO

CITY OF FAITH AND ART

Loreto is a town in Marche, in the province of Ancona, located on a hill at 127 m. s.l.m., dominating the Adriatic sea, and located between the valleys of Potenza and Musone. It is a small and charming town of 17 square kilometers with a population of about 12,000 inhabitants, a stone's throw from a sea and in a region where every district, even the smallest, preserves art treasures and historical memories such as in very few other corners of the world. Loreto, with the unmistakable profile of its Sanctuary and the majestic Apostolic Palace, immediately imposes itself with the charm of beautiful things, which arouse curiosity and the desire to know more about this town. Loreto was developed around the Sanctuary of the Madonna, and it is precisely to this that it owes its fame throughout the world.

THE SANCTUARY

In the heart of the city, within the walls, the Sanctuary holds the relic of the House where Mary lived in Nazareth and which, according to tradition, arrived in Loreto from Palestine in 1294, flown in the Angels on the night of December the 9th.

In subsequent years, thanks also to the collaboration of many artists such as Bramante and Sansovino, the Sanctuary became an important destination for national and international pilgrimages. Inside the Basilica there is the precious statue of the Madonna of Loreto, carved in cedar from Lebanon which gives it a characteristic dark color.

The rapid influx of pilgrims has led citizens to devote themselves to hospitality and crafts related to religious worship.

Sanctuary of the Holy House Practical information

www.santuarioloreto.va/it.html

Timetable Celebrations:

From monday to saturday

in the Holy House without public: 7.30 am presence, broadcast by Telepace, Fano TV and in streaming and with public: 7.00, 8.30, 10.00, 11.00, 17.00, 18.30

Sunday

In the Holy House: 7.00, 8.30, 10.00 (on Telepace, Fano TV and streaming) and in Basilica Santi Papi Pellegrini: 10.15, 11.30, 12.00 and 17.00, 18.00, 19.00.

Eucharistic adoration

from Monday to Friday from 9.00 to 17.30 (French Chapel)
Thursday at 21.00 and Saturday from 9.00 to 12.00

Angelus and the holy rosary

From Monday to Saturday at 12.00 (broadcast in streaming and on TV)
Saturday at 21.00 (broadcast in streaming and on TV)



LORETO IN 1 DAY

Loreto, city of faith and art

In the list of things to see in Loreto, one can only start with the most important attraction, namely the Sanctuary of the Madonna di Loreto.

A rare example of a fortress Basilica, it was built in the Gothic-Renaissance style in 1469 with the contribution of important artists, including Donato Bramante and Bramante to guard a precious jewel: the walls of the Holy House of Mary of Nazareth.

The Basilica is fortified in the upper part with a walkway, covered and protruding corridors with a continuous series of vaulted windows around the top of the Basilica. In the upper internal part and behind the walkways, there are the rooms that were once used as accommodation for the guards for the defense of the sanctuary, now used as a museum.

Continuing the visit to the «Santa Casa» Museum which is located on the noble floor of the Apostolic Palace and collects works of art and devotion mostly from the Basilica. Finally, end the day with the Parco della Rimembranza and the museo dell'aeronautica.



LORETO IN 3 DAYS

Day 1: Loreto - City of Faith and Art (see left)

Day 2: Riviera del Conero: Sirolo - Numana - Porto Recanati

Over 20 km of coasts and numerous blue flags, a promontory overlooking the sea that gives life to caves, coves and inlets between the white rock and the green of the Conero Regional Park, where flora and wild fauna alternate with breathtaking views. Relaxing hills and characteristic medieval villages offer not only relaxation, but unique emotions and experiences, in a sensory journey through traditions, art and flavors of the past. Outdoor activities, sports, evenings under the stars and events for all tastes await you in the Conero lands.

Day 3: Recanati

On the famous Colli dell'Infinito of the Conero Riviera, stands Recanati, famous for being the birthplace of the illustrious poet Giacomo Leopardi and the famous tenor Beniamino Gigli. End your trip with the town of Castelfidardo with its Accordion museum.

OUR CRUSHES, ATYPICAL PLACES TO VISIT !

- Sanctuary of the Holy House of Loreto
- Apostolic Palace
- Pinacoteca Museum
- Sangallo Bastion
- Scala Santa which connects the railway station to the Basilica
- Polish Cemetery (accessible only from the Scala Santa)
- Boccalini Course
- Town Hall
- Piazza Leopardi
- Castle walls





LOURDES

ON ST. BERNADETTE'S FOOTSTEPS

It's no coincidence that the Virgin Mary appeared here in Lourdes in the Pyrenees where water and mountain set the stage for a biblical scene. You can pair a pilgrimage to Lourdes' Sanctuary with countless moving experiences on your stay. Every year, Lourdes receives millions of visitors from every continent who share their own stories, encounters and emotional journey. They come here on a pilgrimage, not only to replenish their soul in a place where fraternity and spirituality abound, but also to discover this amazing location in Occitanie, in the South West of France. Lourdes is in the heart of the Pyrenees mountains, very close to major tourist attractions such as the Cirque de Gavarnie – a Unesco World Heritage Site, the Pic du Midi and the Pyrenees National Park, one of the oldest and richest in France in terms of diversity for its flora and fauna.

THE SANCTUARY OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Millions of people from all over the world gather every year to reflect at the 22 places of worship within the 50 hectares of Sanctuary of Lourdes. They line up to touch the walls of the cave and drink the water from the miraculous spring. Many hope for a cure or accompany loved ones enduring the hardships of disease. Every evening from April to October, visitors and pilgrims can take part in the candle-lit procession. Despite the physical and emotional suffering of visitors, Lourdes exudes an incredible sense of happiness through love and kindness.

Open throughout the year:

April to October:

Masses in all languages, personalized welcome by priests, clergymen and nuns, activities for young people and families, Blessed Sacrament procession at 5 pm and candlelight procession at 9 pm.

November to March:

Events, torchlight rosary at the grotto (only during school holidays).

Guided tours:

The Grotto, the heart of Lourdes (1h)

Visit of the Sanctuary (1h15)

In the Footsteps of Bernadette (2h)

Pilgrim for a day

www.lourdes-france.com



LOURDES IN 1 DAY

Lourdes – The Sanctuary of our Lady of Lourdes

Walk towards the Grotto of the Apparitions and enter beneath the rock: you will see the spring and the famous statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, an unforgettable experience.

The slender, white Basilica of the Immaculate Conception is perched above the rocks of the grotto. Below it is the Basilica of the Rosary, which is decorated with superb Venetian mosaics by G.D. Facchina who also decorated the Opéra Garnier in Paris. The Basilica of Pius X is a crypt constructed beneath the esplanade. It is thought to be one of the largest basilicas in the world and has facilities for 20,000 pilgrims. Follow St. Bernadette's footsteps and discover the important places in the life of Bernadette Soubirous: Bernadette's birthplace (Boly Mill), the Cachot (the dungeon), the former presbytery, etc. Participate in the candlelight procession that takes place daily at 9 pm, from April to October.



LOURDES IN 3 DAYS

Day 1: Lourdes – The Sanctuary of our Lady of Lourdes (see left)

Day 2: Pic du Midi & Gavarnie

The perfect day for photos of the best views in the Pyrenees. The Pic du Midi cable-car takes its passengers on a spectacular voyage to the summit at 2877m, from where the 1000m² of viewing terraces offer a magnificent 360 degree panorama over the Pyrenees.

Nothing can prepare you for your first glimpse of the Cirque de Gavarnie: An impressive natural amphitheatre of rare perfection. It's over 5km in diameter with 1500m high vertical walls, hundreds of waterfalls and a crown of peaks exceeding 3000m in altitude.

Day 3: Cauterets-Pont d'Espagne

Welcome to the Pyrenees' secret garden watched over by Lord Vignemale, the range's highest peak. Fill your lungs with clean air imbued with the scent of sap and wild thyme. Soak up the peace and quiet. It is protected in the heart of the Pyrenees National Park. Flora and fauna have made it their home and you can approach the calm izard and marmots. You don't need to be a keen hiker as the facilities, cable cars and ski lifts, make the trip a walk in the park.

OUR CRUSHES, ATYPICAL PLACES TO VISIT !

- The medieval castle and the Pyrenean Museum
- The Pic du Jer funicular
- The glacial lake of Lourdes
- The Halles de Lourdes covered market
- The musical show Bernadette de Lourdes
- Cycling and hiking in the Pyrenees





MARIAZELL

A TREASURE HIDDEN IN THE AUSTRIAN ALPES

Since 1157 the Romanesque statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary draws countless pilgrims to the idyllic Austrian city. Also known as Magna Mater Austriae, Magna Hungarorum Domina and Mater Gentium Slavorum the historic statue reflects the city's European dimension and multicultural importance. Many generations left their traces here, as attested to by the rich conglomerate of architecture in the basilica's façade, the treasure chambers and numerous votive images on display. Austria's most important Marian Shrine and one of Europe's most renowned pilgrimage sites, Mariazell invites not only to reset and reflect but offers an abundance of recreational activities. In summertime, the area attracts with beautiful walking and hiking trails in the valleys and alpine meadows, mountain climbing routes and host of other sports and recreational opportunities, from mountain biking and wakeboarding on the mountain "Bürgeralpe" to adventures on the high ropes course at the picturesque lake "Erlaufsee". In the winter season three local skidoms present superbly groomed slopes that invite athletic as recreational snow enthusiasts to ski, snowboard or sledge.

THE SHRINE

Hardly any other pilgrimage site in the world can look back on such an impressive past. According to records, Mariazell was founded on December 21, 1157. Legend holds that a monk by the name of Magnus was guided by an apparition of the holy Virgin Mary. Upon arriving at his final destination he built a "Cella" for his hand-carved statue of the holy Virgin, of which the city's name is derived. The chapel of grace is still located at this exact same spot today. The inscription the main portal, cites the date 1200, when margrave Henry of Moravia built the first church made of stone. From around 1400, Mariazell was known internationally as a place of pilgrimage. The church was extended in Baroque style in the 17th century and the royal house of Habsburg adopted the sanctuary as National Shrine of Austria at the end of the counterreformation.

<https://www.basilika-mariazell.at/site/de/info>

Open throughout the year:

November 1 - April 30 : ca. 7:30 - 19:30. May 1 - October 31: ca. 7:30 - 19:30

Opening Hours Treasuries:

May 1 - October 31: From Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00 - 15:00. Sunday and holiday : 10:00 - 16:00. Daily Rosaries. Candlelight processions





MARIAZELL IN 1 DAY

make the most of your one day stay

Make the most of your day in this beautiful city and start your day early, attending one of the numerous morning services in the chapel of grace. After the service, ascend to the first floor to tour the impressive treasures of the sanctuary with a guide or simply by accessing the audio guide through the "Basilika Mariazell" App. If you're feeling hungry you might indulge on some ginger bread or treat yourself to a proper meal at one of the local restaurants. In the afternoon, hike up a 45min trail or ascend the local mountain "Bürgeralpe" via monocable ropeway. On top of the mountain you can get even higher when visiting the viewing tower. Discover the traditional amusement park showcasing the life of lumberjacks back in the days. The park moreover comprises a water park and the very bold might consider riding downhill by bike.

OUR CRUSHES, ATYPICAL PLACES TO VISIT !

- Hike one of the surrounding mountains
- Visit Hubertusseee
- Ötschergräben, a breathtaking gorge filled with cristal clear water
- Discover of one of the small churches in the surroundings by hiking one of the «holy trails»

MARIAZELL IN 3 DAYS

Day 1: Get to know the city

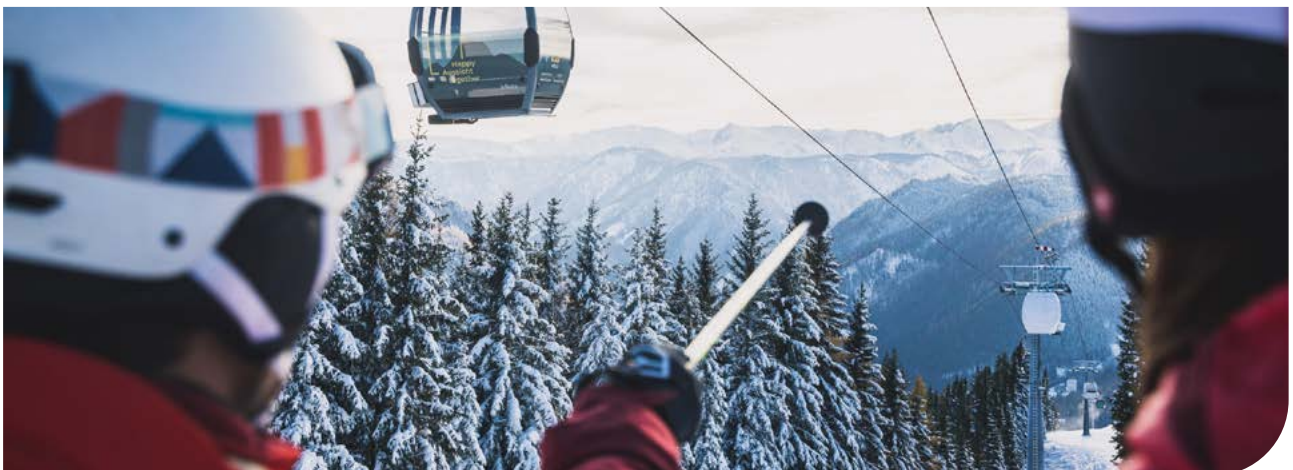
Arrive in the welcoming pilgrimage city and start your holiday by attending a welcoming service in the sacred chapel of grace, followed by a visit of the treasures and a guided city tour to get a first impression of the pilgrimage city. After a delicious lunch you'll be visiting the local museum "Heimathaus" where you'll learn about the regions history, costumes and traditions as well as skiing pioneers and Austrian flora and fauna. Last but not least, hike up the hill "Kalvarienberg", along the stations of the cross and take in the evening atmosphere overlooking the city

Day 2: Explore your surroundings

Start your day with an excursion to hike one of the shorter pilgrimage trails in the region, departing from one of the smaller churches in the neighbourhood, moving towards the Basilika. In the afternoon, attend a guided tour in the 300 year old pharmacy "Apotheke zur Gnadenmutter", where you can get some hands on experience mixing ornaments. Next on the agenda is a tour of the liquor manufacture "Arzberger" who provides pilgrims with bitters since the early days.

Day 3: Relax and Recharge

Join an excursion to the closely lake "Erlaufsee". Stroll around the lake, visit the high ropes course, rent a boat or stand-up-paddle, enjoy and relax. In the afternoon you'll visit the world-famous ginger-bread factory "Pirker Lebkuchen" to learn about the art of ginger bread manufacturing.



FACILITIES

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR YOUR TOUR

To make visits as pleasant as possible, we have gathered useful information : you can find information about how to travel by air, train, the best choice to move, where to sleep comfortably in beautiful hotels and some marvelous restaurants in each city.
Enjoy !

ALTÖTTING

Your contact :

Pilgrimage and Tourist
Office Altötting
Ulrike Kirmich
ulrike.kirmich@altoetting.de
touristinfo@altoetting.de
+49 8671 506239
www.altoetting.de/en/tourism-altoetting/

Airports

Munich International
Airport, 90km, 1.5 hours
travelling time
www.munich-airport.de

Train

Altötting train station
(800 m from city center).
Regional train connection
Burghausen – Altötting –
Mühldorf. From Mühldorf
connection to Munich.
1,5 hours travelling time
Altötting – Munich

Hotels & Restaurants

6 hotels suitable for groups
– 400 hotel rooms
In addition: private accom-
modation, holiday homes,
guest houses and camper
van station.
Restaurants for groups
directly in the city center

CZĘSTOCHOWA

Your contact

Tourist Information
Aleja Najświętszej Maryi
Panny 65
+48 343 682 250
mcit@czestochowa.um.gov.pl

Airport

Katowice Airport
50 km, 45 min. by car
www.katowice-airport.com

Train

Stations: Częstochowa
(central) and Częstochowa
Stradom. Both 2 km to
Jasna Góra.
1,5 h from Katowice by
train

Hôtels & Restaurants

12 Hotels
Many private accommo-
dations
Student houses
Guest houses
More than 1500 beds
Plenty of restaurants in the
city centre

EINSIEDELN

Your contact :

Tourist Office Einsiedeln
Susanne Staiger
Hauptstrasse 85, 8840
Einsiedeln
+41 55 418 44 88
info@eyz.swiss
www.eyz.swiss

Airports

Arrival per flight in Zurich;
Transfer to Einsiedeln by
train, 1h15 min.

Train

Einsiedeln Train Station
10 min. walk from the
Monastery

Hotels & Restaurants

8 hotels and over 50
restaurants, camper van
station

FÁTIMA

Your contact :

Tourist Office of Ourém
Fernando Paquim
Promotion executive
T +351 249 540 900
(Ext. 6869)
+351 911750298
fernando.paquim@mail.cm-ourem.pt
www.ourem.pt
<https://turismo.ourem.pt/>

Airports

Lisbon airport, 1h00 from
Fátima
<https://www.aeroporto-lisboa.pt/en/lis/home>
Porto airport, 1h30 from
Fátima
<https://www.aeroporto-porto.pt/en/opo/home>

Train & bus

Train station: Chão de
Maças – 40 minutos from
Fátima
<https://www.cp.pt/pas-sageiros/en>

Hotels & Restaurants

<https://turismo.ourem.pt/point-tags/onde-dormir/>
<https://turismo.ourem.pt/point-tags/onde-comer/>



LORETO

Your contact :

Loreto IAT Center - Tourist
Information Center
iat.loreto@regione.marche.it
tel: 071 970276

Airports

Ancona International Airport, 38.4 km,

Train

Loreto railway station (1200 m from
the center).

Hotels & Restaurants

5 hotels – 400 beds
Private accommodation – holiday
homes – camper van station
15 restaurants in the city center

LOURDES

Your contact :

Tourist Office of Lourdes
Corine Laussu
Promotion executive
+33 672 151 424
clausu@lourdes-infotourisme.com
www.lourdes-infotourisme.com

Airports

Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrenees airport, 15
min from Lourdes
www.tlp.aeroport.fr
Pau-Pyrenees airport, 40 min from
Lourdes
www.pau.aeroport.fr
Toulouse airport, 1h30 min from
Lourdes - www.toulouse.aeroport.fr

Train

TGV train station in the city center,
direct trains from Paris (5h15).

Hotels & Restaurants

Around 133 hotels
<https://www.lourdes-infotourisme.com/sejourner/ou-dormir/>
& 110 restaurants
<https://www.lourdes-infotourisme.com/sejourner/ou-manger/>

MARIAZELL

Your contact :

Anna Maria Scherfler
Promotion executive
mariazell.anna@gmail.com
+43 664 112 35 30

Airports

Vienna International Airport
2h00 from Mariazell
Graz Airport
1h34 from Mariazell
Bratislava Airport
2h40 from Mariazell

Train & bus

Mariazell Train Station
15 min walk from center
Mariazell Bus Station In the city centre

Hotels & Restaurants

5 hotels – 400 beds
Private accommodation – holiday
homes – camper van station
15 restaurants in the city center



A PATH OF CULTURE AND SPRITITUALITY

Shrines-of-europe.com