

US Super Region
Tour Before the Fatima 2018 International Gathering
From July 5 to July 16, 2018

For more information and Reservations contact:

Mary Lewis, Apex Tours & Travel
2460 Saint Louis Ct., Turlock, CA 95382
209-632-3935 or apextrips@gmail.com

\$250 Deposit Needed at Reservation. Final Payment – 90 days before Tour

Day 1 – 05 July (Thursday) – Arrive in Madrid, Spain

Welcome to Madrid! A group transfer is provided from the airport. Gather together tonight for a welcome dinner at your hotel. (Dinner)

Day 2 – 06 July (Friday) – Madrid. Excursion to Toledo

The capital since 1561, Madrid today is a strikingly modern city, the showcase of a country resolutely turned towards the future. Your Local Guide takes you to the Puerta del Sol, Plaza de España with its monument to Cervantes, the Parliament, Cibeles Fountain, elegant Calle Alcalá, and Paseo de Castellana. Then, the highlight: a visit to the palatial PRADO MUSEUM with its priceless art treasures. This afternoon take an excursion to TOLEDO, one of the Spanish cities with the greatest wealth of monuments. Known as the "city of three cultures" because Christians, Arabs and Jews lived together there for centuries. Upon arrival in Toledo there will first be a drive around the city with a stop for a panoramic view. Then a walk in the city visiting one of the most outstanding buildings in Toledo - the Cathedral - considered one of the high points of Gothic art. Continue with a visit of the CHURCH OF SANTO TOMÉ, which is famous for housing El Greco's famous picture entitled "The burial of Count Orgaz". Return to Madrid later this evening. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 3 – 07 July (Saturday) – Madrid – Segovia – Avila – Salamanca

A day in beautiful Castile. Cross the rugged Sierra de Guadarrama mountain range on the way to Segovia, famous for the 2,000-year-old Roman aqueduct. Visit LA GRANJA, an 18th-century palace in the hills near Segovia. Enjoy a walk through the walled town of Avila, where St. Theresa founded the Order of Carmelites. Arrive in Salamanca, and follow your Tour Director for a pleasant walk to beautiful Plaza Mayor. A highlight is your overnight stay at Hacienda Zorita, which once hosted Christopher Columbus, where a WINE TASTING and dinner await you. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 4 – 08 July (Sunday) – Salamanca – Zamora – Santiago de Compostela

As you travel north east today, stop in the city of Zamora. Perched on a rocky hill near the Portugal border, and along the Duero River Valley, it is the city with the most Romanesque churches in all of Europe. Visit the impressive CATHEDRAL that dates back to the 12th century. Continue your journey to Santiago de Compostela. This evening, dinner has been prepared for you at one of the city's fine local restaurants. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 5 – 09 July (Monday) – Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela has been one of the most popular pilgrim destinations since the Middle Ages. For over a thousand years, pilgrims have been walking the Camino de Santiago. Guided sightseeing includes a visit to the CATHEDRAL, where the relics of St. James the Apostle, brother of St. John the Evangelist, are held. Later, an exciting optional excursion is available to La Coruna. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 6 – 10 July (Tuesday) – Santiago de Compostela – Viana do Castelo, Portugal – Braga – Guimaraes – Oporto

As we journey south across the border, first stop in the port city of Viana do Castelo for a walking tour. Next stop in Braga, one of the oldest Christian cities in the world and nicknamed the “Portuguese Rome.” Visit the BOM JESUS DO MONTE SANCTUARY, an important pilgrimage site, where devout followers have walked the “Stations of the Cross” for contemplation and penance since 1811. See the unique zigzag stairway dedicated to the five senses: sight, smell, hearing, touch, and taste—and the three theological virtues: faith, hope, and charity. In Guimarães, often referred to as the “Cradle of Portugal” because of its association with the country’s first king, Alfonso Henriques, enjoy a walk through the medieval center. Arrive in Oporto, Portugal’s second-largest city. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 7 – 11 July (Wednesday) – Oporto

Sightseeing with a Local Guide includes a panoramic drive to the mouth of the Douro River, the soaring cathedral, the richly decorated CHURCH OF SÃO FRANCISCO, and the STOCK EXCHANGE with its contemporary ARABIAN HALL, inspired by Granada’s Alhambra. Next, visit the famous Sandeman & Co. PORT WINE CELLAR to taste the Port wine produced from grapes of the Douro Valley. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 8 – 12 July (Thursday) – Oporto – Aveiro – Belmonte – Lisbon

Continue south to Aveiro, the “Venice” of Portugal. On your walking tour of the city, see the sights and visit the AVEIRO CATHEDRAL as well as the local FISH MARKET. Continue to Belmonte, today a symbol of Jewish awakening, for a visit of the JEWISH MUSEUM. Also enjoy an OLIVE OIL TASTING, for which the area is famous. Arrive in Lisbon a city that was the center of Europe’s longest-lived overseas empire. Portugal’s imperial ambitions date back to Prince Henry the Navigator’s 15th-century discoveries in West Africa. Treat yourself to an evening of FADO MUSIC AND DINNER at a local restaurant. Fado combines elements of Portuguese country folk music with Moorish and African influences. It originated in the port city of Lisbon, where many cultures met and merged over centuries: it is the music that reveals the Portuguese soul. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 9 – 13 July (Friday) – Lisbon. Excursion to Cascais

Morning sightseeing with a Local Guide features a drive through the Baixa quarter’s main squares. Then, enjoy a walk through the cobblestone alleys of quaint ALFAMA, the popular quarter of the seamen and Fado singers. Drive along the grand Avenida da Liberdade up to Pombal Square, and stop for pictures of Belem Tower and the Monument to the Discoveries. Also visit JERÓNIMOS MONASTERY with the tomb of Vasco da Gama. This afternoon head to the beach town of Cascais where the River

Tagus meets the ocean. The afternoon will be at leisure for you to explore and take in any activities the area has to offer. Return to Lisbon this evening. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 10 – 14 July (Saturday) – Lisbon. Excursions to Sintra & Mafra

Today is all about the impressive buildings of the region. On the way out of the City, visit the PALACE OF QUELUZ, one of the last great Rococo style buildings to be designed in Europe. Then we visit Sintra and the REGALEIRA PALACE AND GARDENS that had been used by generations of Portuguese Royalty prior to the 1910 revolution. Also visit the MOORISH CASTLE ruins before travelling a bit more north to Mafra. Take a tour of the NATIONAL PALACE a massive baroque style building, and stop at a local bakery to enjoy its FAMOUS BREAD, Pão de Mafra, before returning to Lisbon. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 11 – 15 July (Sunday) – Lisbon. Excursions to Óbidos, Alcobaça, Nazaré and Tomar

Stop in medieval Óbidos and go back in time as you pass the main gate in the impressive perimeter wall and walk along the narrow streets. Continue to Alcobaça to visit the CHURCH OF SANTA MARIA MONASTERY, built in the 12th century for 999 Cistercian monks. See the elaborate tombs of King Pedro I and his Castilian lover, Inês de Castro. The fishing harbor of Nazaré is the perfect place for a leisurely lunch break. In Tomar, the historic seat of the mighty Order of the Knights of Christ, visit the hilltop CONVENT OF CHRIST with its famous Manueline Window. Return to Lisbon for your overnight. (Breakfast, Dinner)

Day 12 – 16 July (Monday) – Lisbon – Batalha – Fátima

Today stop in Batalha, a town in the Leiria District. On your walking tour of the city, visit the impressive BATALHA MONASTERY, one of the most important Gothic sites in Portugal. Arrive in Fátima, home to one of the most famous Catholic shrines. Enjoy an orientation walk and visit the Tomb of the Visionaries and the Chapel of the Apparitions made famous by the Virgin Mary's 1917 appearances to three shepherd children, which culminated in the revelation of the Three Secrets of Fátima. Afterwards, a transfer will be provided to your International Gathering hotel. (Breakfast)

Prices per person:

44 to 40 persons = \$2378 USD per person

35 to 39 persons = \$2501 USD per person

30 to 34 persons = \$2627 USD per person

*Teams of Our Lady is not responsible for any issues or losses related to this tour.
Responsibility lies with the tour provider and contracted entities.*