

BELLARMINE JESUIT RETREAT HOUSE invites you join us on a Pilgrimage to..

Shrines of Spain



Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Conversion of St. Ignatius Loyola



June 12 - 23, 2023



\$4,199 PER PERSON FROM **CHICAGO (ORD)**

All Pricing Based On Double Occupancy
Leave from Any Airport: www.206tours.com/addon

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR:
Fr Michael Sparough, SJ

GROUP LEADERS:
Erin Maiorca
Betsey Beckman
Robert McCaffery - Lent

Fr. Michael and Erin from the Bellarmine staff will lead us in exploring the wisdom of St. Ignatius. Robert will lead us in music, and Betsey will enhance our prayer through dance and storytelling.

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SAMPLE DAY-BY-DAY ITINERARY

Day 1: Mon, June 12: Depart for Madrid

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Your meals will be served on board.

Day 2, Tue, June 13: Arrive in Madrid

Upon arrival in Madrid, collect your luggage in the baggage claim area, and continue to the arrival hall where you will be warmly greeted by your tour guide and/or driver. Make your way to the vehicle and start the pilgrimage with a tour of Madrid and visit some of Madrid's most famous sights like: "Puerta de Alcalá", "Puerta del Sol", the Royal Palace and the massive "Cathedral de la Almudena" (Cathedral of Madrid) dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Here group will celebrate Holy Mass. Following Mass visit the Prado Museum housing a collection of masterpieces by Spain's artists Velazquez, Goya and El Greco. Your evening is at leisure to explore or shop on your own. Dinner and overnight in Madrid.

Day 3, Wed, June 14: Madrid – Alcalá – Madrid

Following breakfast visit Alcalá de Henares, city located 22 miles north-east of Madrid where St Ignatius founder of the Jesuit Order attended the school. Group will tour the University where St Ignatius studied and celebrated Holy Mass at the University Chapel. Enjoy the authentic Spanish lunch at local parador and continue with visits before group return to Madrid for restful overnight.

Day 4, Thu, June 15: Madrid – Avila

Enjoy breakfast before leaving Madrid and heading to Avila. Upon arrival in Avila, you will immediately notice the perfectly preserved eleventh-century walls surrounding the old town. The conservation of architecture in this city, to which St. Teresa was born, deems its shrines, convents, and churches necessary to visit any Catholic pilgrimage. Visit the Incarnation Convent, where St. Teresa became a nun. Saint Teresa convinced Saint John of the Cross to reform the male Carmelite order, the reform she started when she met Saint John in Medina del Campo. Group will celebrate Holy Mass and then proceed to check-in hotel. In the afternoon continue with guided walking tour of the old City of Avila including the Shrines of St John of the cross. Dinner and overnight in Avila.

Day 5, Fri, June 16: Avila – Arevalo

After breakfast continue to Arevalo. In 1506 when he was 15, Ignatius was sent by his father to be a page in the household of Juan Velazquez de Cuellar, one of King Ferdinand's provincial governors and his treasurer general, at his castle in Arévalo. The castle of Arévalo stands near the junction of the Arevalillo and Adaja rivers which originally worked as a defense and natural moat. This stone and brick construction was built in the 15th century by Alvaro de Zuñiga y Guzmán, who was given the title of Duke of Arévalo by King Henry IV. At the death of the Duke, the castle passed on to the Catholic Queen and King who turned it into a prison until the 17th century. With the wars of Succession and Independence, the castle was in ruins and became a graveyard until the 20th century. Here Ignatius stayed until 1516 being trained like others of his age and class to be a good soldier, horseman and courtier. This training in the soldierly virtues probably exerted some influence on the society he founded. Dinner and overnight at your hotel in Medina del Campo.

Day 6, Sat, June 17: Arevalo – Burgos – Loyola

This morning, depart Salamanca and stop at Dominica Convent marking the birth place of St Dominic at Caleruega. Celebrate Mass before driving north to Burgos, an important stop on the famous pilgrimage: El Camino de Santiago (The Way of Saint James). A city in the historic heart of Spain, Burgos served as one of the capitals of Castile and is the birthplace of El Cid, the 11th century hero. During a tour of the city visit the Cathedral of Burgos dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, a masterpiece of Spanish gothic architecture and an UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begun in the 13th century and completed in 1567, it is renowned for its immense size and unique architecture. You will also see the 12th century Las Huelgas Reales Monastery, the Cartuja of Miraflores and the medieval Arco de Santa Maria. Afterwards, continue to Loyola to visit the birthplace of St. Ignatius. Dinner and overnight in Loyola.

Day 7, Sun, June 18: Loyola – Azpeita - Loyola

St. Ignatius dedicated himself to becoming a soldier of the Christian faith, and as a result of many tribulations, he wrote the ever-famous Spiritual Exercises. In Loyola, you will see the 17th-century Basilica dedicated to this remarkable saint -the Basilica is part of a series of buildings surrounding the "Holy House," or birthplace of St. Ignatius. When you visit these Holy places, you will also have the opportunity to pray at the most venerated room, where St. Ignatius prayed and began his conversion. After meditating on the life of this founder of the Jesuit Order, enjoy free time for lunch. Following lunch continue to medieval section of the town of Azpeitia and visit the Church where St Ignatius was baptized in 1491 as well as a site where he taught catechism. The sanctuary, castle, basilica and museum recount the important history of Ignatius and the Jesuit Order. Dinner and overnight in Loyola.

Day 8, Mon, June 19: Loyola – Pamplona – Xavier - Sos del Rey Catolico

After breakfast group will board motor coach and continue to the hamlet of Xavier, located nearby Pamplona in the province of Navarra. First stop will be Pamplona where group will be recalling the site where Ignatius received a wound that was to change his life. This event was the starting point for his conversion to Christ. We continue pilgrimage with a visit to Xavier Castle, (a castillo strategically positioned between Navarra and Aragon). We call to mind the life of St. Francis Xavieras we celebrate Holy Mass here. Following Mass group will gather at a local restaurant for our included lunch, followed by a guided tour of the Xavier Castle. Transfer to Sos del Rey Catolico for hotel check in, dinner and overnight.

Day 9, Tue, June 20: Sos del Rey Catolico - Zaragoza - Montserrat

We make our way to Montserrat, stop and visit the Cathedral of Our Lady of Pillar in Zaragoza. Enjoy lunch on our own. We arrive later this afternoon in the spiritual heart of Catalonia and home to the dramatically set Benedictine monastery. This Marian shrine has attracted pilgrims for over 700 years, much as it did Ignatius in March of 1522. We view the Black Madonna of Montserrat before whom Ignatius laid his sword and exchanged his fancy clothes for those of a beggar. We celebrate our Eucharist at the Monastery of Montserrat before gathering for dinner at our accommodations.

Day 10, Wed, June 21: Montserrat – Manresa – Barcelona

Enjoy breakfast and visit Montserrat before departing for Manresa, a place of profound conversion for Ignatius. We enjoy an audiovisual presentation and a tour of the museum at Manresa. We celebrate Eucharist in the cave on the banks of the Cardoner River where Ignatius received a vision that provided him with deep insights into the spiritual life and altered the course of his own life. From the initial insights he received here, Ignatius went on to compose the "Spiritual Exercises." Ignatius remained in Manresa for about a year and a half before continuing his journey to Barcelona. We take some time for lunch on our own. We continue to Barcelona for dinner and overnight.

Day 11, Thu, June 22: Barcelona

This morning, your day will begin with breakfast and a sightseeing tour of Barcelona! Start a day with a walking tour of the Gothic Quarter containing remains from an ancient Roman village, including the Cathedral of Barcelona. Group will also visit the Church of Santa Maria del Mar, where Ignatius begged for alms for his journey to the Holy Land. Celebrate Holy Mass and continue touring some of the major sites of Barcelona, including Gaudi's masterwork unfinished Roman Catholic Basilica, La Sagrada Familia. The remainder of the day is at leisure to further explore this magnificent city on your own. You may wish to do more sightseeing, shopping or perhaps take time to relax and try some tapas at a sidewalk café. This evening group will gather at a local restaurant for farewell dinner.

Day 12, Fri, June 23: Return Home

Your last day in Spain will begin with breakfast at your hotel, followed by a transfer to Barcelona Airport for your return flight(s) home. You will say "hasta luego" (see you later) to your new friends made on this journey.

