



THE MINISTRY OF CARING INC.

**You are invited to join Father Ronald
on the trip of a lifetime as we explore:**

Charming France

**Paris | Lourdes | Rennes | Paris
November 6 - November 15, 2024**

\$5,665 per person
(for single supplement, please add \$650).

**With round trip flights from Philadelphia.
For more information contact Debbe Philips
at (302) 652-5523, or via email at
dphilips@ministryofcaring.org**





Arc de Triomphe, photo by Bastien Nvs

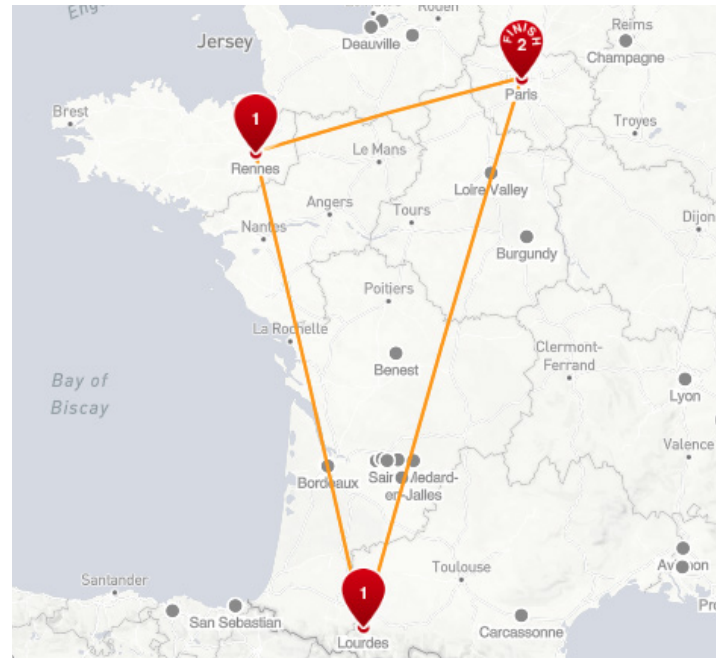
Day 1, Wednesday, November 6. Depart from Philadelphia on an overnight flight to Paris via American Airlines.

Day 2, Thursday, November 7. Morning arrival in Paris. Thomas Jefferson once said, “A walk about Paris will provide lessons in history, beauty, and in the point of life.” Bonjour and welcome to the city of Paris. The capital of France and famed as the most romantic city in the world, Paris is equally celebrated for its dedication to the fine art of good living and fine art. Upon arrival, your driver meets you and takes you to the centrally-located Hotel Opera Richepanse, mere blocks from the Place de la Concorde and the Jardin des Tuileries. We’ll take the day to relax, get settled, and to spend time exploring the nearby neighborhoods.

Day 3, Friday, November 8, A tour of Musée du Louvre and the Latin Quarter, followed by dinner (full day).

Today, we begin our trip by discovering the delights of the Musée du Louvre, effortlessly bypassing the lines with your skip-the-line tickets. Marvel at the crème de la crème collections, from the iconic Venus di Milo and Winged Victory to the enigmatic portrait of Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. Later, we will immerse ourselves in the vibrant sights and sounds of the districts of Paris with a captivating walking tour of the Latin Quarter, known for its lively atmosphere and

its bistros, and Marais, with its gallery and cafe culture and its role as the historic center of Jewish culture. We savor a leisurely lunch at a charming local restaurant (not included), indulging in French culinary delights and taking time to relax and recharge. Then, we’ll continue our adventure along the banks of the River Seine—a UNESCO World Heritage Site—immersing ourselves in the Bohemian charm of the Latin Quarter. Exploring the enchanting medieval streets and stone-paved alleyways, discovering the remarkable Notre Dame Cathedral on Île de la Cité and other captivating sights like Hôtel de Ville, the Fountain of the Innocents, and Palais Royal on Ile Saint Louis. We conclude our tour with a sense of fulfillment, leaving us with the rest of the day to bask in the beauty and grandeur of Paris at our own pace. In the evening, get together for a dinner (included).



Day 4, Saturday, November 9,
Full day private tour of the Palace of Versailles.

Today, we meet our guide and bus driver as we drive 12 miles west of Paris for a 6-hour private tour of the magnificent Palace of Versailles, famous as the grand residence of French kings. We will skip-the-line and tour the grandiose opulence as we pass through the Hall of Mirrors where the Treaty of Versailles was signed and see the actual rooms of the most extravagant King of France, Louis the XIV. We will also discover the world famous Le Notre gardens, see the Grand Trianon (exterior), and enjoy an inside visit to Petit Trianon - Marie-Antoinette’s estate - before returning to Paris.

Day 5, Sunday, November 10: Morning Mass and departure to Lourdes via train. Dinner included.

After morning Mass, our private driver takes us to the train station where we'll depart for the southern city of Lourdes, a 5-hour, 412-mile journey via train with views of the French countryside. Arriving in Lourdes, we have a private transfer to check-in at the Hôtel Saint Sauveur. The rest of the day is at your own leisure to relax after the trip. We will get together for dinner in the evening.

Day 6 Lourdes, Monday, November 11:
Discover Lourdes walking tour and Mass at the Grotto.

Today, we will experience the spiritual essence of Lourdes in a concise four-hour tour, focusing on the city's most revered Catholic landmarks. Lourdes, known for its Marian apparitions to Saint Bernadette Soubirous, is a center of pilgrimage and faith. We begin our tour at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, encompassing the Grotto of Massabielle, where the Virgin Mary is said to have first appeared to Bernadette on February 11, 1858. Today, this sanctuary is a place of prayer and private reflection, featuring the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception and the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary, known for their stunning architecture and for their religious significance.



The Grotto at Lourdes, *photo by Nick Castelli*

We will walk the processional route, capturing the essence of the pilgrimages and processions that define Lourdes, before visiting the Baths, where pilgrims immerse themselves in the spring waters, believed to have healing properties. Our tour will also include a visit to the Musée Sainte-Bernadette, which offers insights into the life of Saint Bernadette and her impact on the Catholic world. We conclude our day with a visit to



Palace of Versailles, *photo by Mathias Reding.*

Bernadette's birthplace, adding a personal dimension to her story. This tour offers a comprehensive exploration of the Catholic heritage of the city and is ideal for those seeking a deeper understanding of the city's religious significance.



Place Sainte-Anne, Rennes, *photo by Pascal Bernardon*

Day 7 Lourdes, Tuesday, November 12:
Departure to Rennes via bus.

Following breakfast, we set out on a 440+ mile drive to the city of Rennes, the capital city of Brittany in northwest France. Traveling by bus and with a half hour stop for lunch (included), our trip takes us through the delights of the French countryside as we travel towards Roquefort and Bordeaux on our way to Rennes. Famed for its medieval half-timbered houses and grand Cathedral, Rennes dates back over 2,000 years. Along with Vannes and Nantes, Rennes was one of the major cities of the ancient Duchy of Brittany. Upon arrival, we check in at our hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at our leisure.

Day 8, Rennes, Wednesday, November 13

Full day private trip to Saint-Malo and Mont-Saint-Michel & Mass.



Le Mont-Saint-Michel, photo by Florian Delée

Together with our English-speaking driver, today we enjoy a day trip to the cities of northern Brittany. Starting in Saint-Malo (the setting for Anthony Doerr's novel *All The Light We Cannot See*), we'll explore the historic center of this 18th-century town and its defensive wall surrounded by the Emerald Coast (Côte d'Émeraude). Next, we visit another UNESCO World Heritage Site—Mont-Saint-Michel—known as the 'Wonder of the West,' famed for the Benedictine Abbey of Mont-Saint-Michel and dedicated



Fox Green section of Omaha Beach, June 6, 1944. U.S. forces of Company A, 16th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division (the Big Red One) wade ashore from a landing craft deployed from the U.S. Coast Guard-manned USS Samuel Chase. Photo by U.S. Coast Guard chief petty officer, Robert F. Sargent (August 26, 1923 – May 8, 2012). Public domain image.

to the archangel Saint Michael. Founded in A.D. 966 and built between the 11th and 16th centuries, the Abbey towers over the island village that grew up in the shadow of its walls. With access protected and limited by the highest seasonal tides in Europe, the Abbey is a technical and artistic marvel that's had to adapt to the problems posed by this unique natural site. Here you have about 2.5 hours to explore this unmatched gem. The last stop in our tour today is the charming medieval town of Dinan, built on a hill overlooking the River Rance. The town features almost 2 miles of ramparts, an attractive port, delightful half-timbered houses many of which date to the 14th-16th centuries, and the 12th century basilica of Saint-Sauveur with its blend of Byzantine, Persian and Romanesque influences. The town's maze of quaint cobbled streets are filled with art galleries and craft shops for you to explore before we head back to Rennes and a well-deserved dinner.

Day 9, Rennes, Thursday, November 14

Full day 'D-Day' tour and farewell dinner (included).

Today, we embark on a full-day tour of the historic sites of the Normandy landings of June 6, 1944. This promises to be an emotionally poignant and inspiring journey through World War II history that includes visits to the most significant locations of Operation Overlord (the codename for the Battle of Normandy), and the Normandy Landings (codename Operation Neptune), generally referred to as D-Day. We will visit Omaha Beach, Utah Beach, and the The Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial at Colleville-sur-Mer, the final resting place or memorial of 10,944 U.S. military dead or missing. Our expert guide provides insights into the events of the invasion while offering a blend of insightful education and personal reflection and a chance to remember the bravery and sacrifice of innumerable members of the armed forces in the 80th anniversary year of the Allied invasion. This promises to be a meaningful experience for history enthusiasts and patriots alike. In the evening we will gather to enjoy an included farewell dinner.

Day 10, Rennes - Paris, Friday, November 15.

Departure from Rennes to Paris via train.

Following breakfast, your private driver will take you to the train station for a direct train to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport and our return flight to Philadelphia.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

What's included:

Round trip airfare and accommodation at remarkable 4-star, centrally-located hotels; breakfast each day. Three dinners – one in each of the cities where we stay. Airport transfers and all transportation according to the itinerary; breathtaking sight-seeing tours according to the itinerary with professional English-speaking guides.

What's not included: travel insurance, tips for tour guides and drivers, beverages at dinner, other meals not mentioned in the brochure, and all personal expenses.

PLEASE NOTE: The deposit and balance amount of this trip are non-refundable.

You are advised to buy or to hold current and/or suitable travel insurance to cover all eventualities including but not limited to trip curtailment or cancellation and to have this insurance in effect BEFORE YOU COMMIT to this trip! Your travel insurance must also cover all personal and emergency healthcare, all personal items (including personal jewelry, electronics, cameras, and baggage), as well as all lost or stolen travel documents and tickets. You may wish to visit insuremytrip.com or squaremouth.com or your personal insurer for full details on a variety of travel insurance plans.

It is important to have travel insurance so that you may be reassured that you will be reimbursed in the event of an emergency where you need to cancel your trip.

1. Hotel availability is subject to change. In the event that listed hotels are booked out we will provide alternative hotels of an equal value for you.

2. As a standard, our travel packages include one checked-in bag weighing no more than 50 lb., one carry-on, and one handbag per person. Please let us know if you require additional luggage beyond our standard allowance. **All passengers are personally responsible for any and all excess baggage fees on items that exceed the 50 lb limit.**

ESSENTIAL At their own expense, all travelers are required to have a valid passport to join this tour. Each passport must be valid for six months beyond November 15, 2024. Visit www.travel.state.gov for the U.S. State Department for the latest details about passports and visa requirements. If you are a United States permanent resident you **MUST** travel with your permanent resident card, which must be valid for six months beyond November 16, 2024.

We recommend each traveler make and keep a COLOR photocopy of the passport page featuring the traveler's name and photograph. This copy should be packed separately from your actual passport. We also recommend leaving a copy of this information at home with your emergency contact. Please forward a copy of your passport photo page at the time of booking.

Single accommodations are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis for an additional \$650 per person. The overall activity level of this tour is a level 3. This means you're an on-the-go traveler. You don't want to miss a thing, so walking and standing for longer periods of time (1-2 hours) isn't a big deal. You can navigate hills and uneven ground, climb into various modes of transportation (bus, train, car, etc.), and could possibly anticipate changes in elevation. You can expect some longer days balanced with free time to recharge or set out on your own adventure.

Please be advised many airlines do not provide advance seat assignments until check-in at the airport. Advance seating will be subject to the airline's terms and conditions. You will be traveling in economy class. If you wish to upgrade to premium seats or business class, you must do so on your own.

A deposit of \$1,665 per person is due with your reservation by APRIL 1, 2024. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of APRIL 1, 2024 are based upon availability.

Final payment of \$4,000 is due by JUNE 1, 2024. **Because all fees are final, with no refunds, we recommend you obtain travel insurance to protect you in the event you need to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances.**



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Charming France

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(for single supplement, please add \$650).

With round trip flights from Philadelphia. For more information contact Debbe Philips at (302) 652-5523, or via email at dphilips@ministryofcaring.org

ITINERARY

Day 1: Departure from Philadelphia, overnight flight to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport

Day 2: Arrival in Paris, France. Rest and relaxation, personal exploration

Day 3: Paris discovery: Musée du Louvre, walking tour of the Latin Quarter and Marias

Day 4: Day trip to the Palace of Versailles

Day 5: Paris to Lourdes via train

Day 6: Lourdes discovery: Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Grotto of Massabielle, and Musée Sainte-Bernadette

Day 7: Lourdes to Rennes by road

Day 8: Day trip from Rennes to Saint-Malo and Mont-Saint-Michel

Day 9: Rennes to the Normandy Beaches and D-Day tour

Day 10: Rennes to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport for our flight home to Philadelphia

**For more information contact Debbe Philips at
(302) 652-5523, or via email at dphilips@ministryofcaring.org**

**If you are ready to complete your reservation for this trip you
MUST complete and return BOTH SIDES of the form on the next page >>>**



THE MINISTRY OF CARING INC.

RESERVATION FORM

Paris | Lourdes | Rennes | Paris
November 6 - November 15, 2024, \$5,665 pp

(for single supplement, please add \$650).

I/we want to make the following reservations.

The NAME of each passenger MUST match the details on the photo/ID page of their passport
Please type or print CLEARLY!

Passenger 1.

First name _____ Middle name/s _____

Last name _____ Suffix _____

Room type: Double room _____ Single room _____ (single supplement, please add \$650) Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____

Passenger 2's roommate's details (if applicable)

First name _____ Middle name/s _____

Last name _____ Suffix _____

Date of birth ____ / ____ / ____

Do any passengers listed above have any dietary requirements, food allergies, or any personal medical, mobility, or accessibility needs? YES ___ NO ___ . If yes, please give details: _____

PLEASE GIVE THE CONTACT DETAILS OF THE PERSON MAKING THIS RESERVATION

First name _____ Middle name/s _____

Last name _____ Suffix _____

Address _____ Apt # _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Cell phone (with area code) _____ Secondary phone (with area code) _____

Email address _____

Please complete the payment details on the next page.
We cannot process your reservation without your payment details >>

A deposit of \$1,665 per passenger made by APRIL 1, 2024 secures your reservation.

All reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. Reservations made after the deposit due date of

APRIL 1, 2024 are based upon availability. **Final payment is due by JUNE 1, 2024.**

Travelers under the age of 18 **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.

Please find enclosed my/our check for \$ _____ made payable to *The Ministry of Caring Inc.*

PLEASE NOTE, ALL CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO A 3% PROCESSING SURCHARGE.

Please charge my credit card, details below:

Card # _____ **Amount to be charged \$** _____

Card holder's name as it appears on the card _____

MasterCard VISA Discover Card expiration date ____ / ____ CSV number _____
Month Year The three or digit number on the back of the card.

All passengers noted on this form must sign below:

Passenger 1,
Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Passenger 2,
Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

PLEASE INCLUDE COPIES OF THE PHOTO/ID PAGE OF EACH PASSENGER'S PASSPORT
(Each passenger's passport MUST be valid for at least six months after November 15, 2024)

Please MAIL your completed form to:

**Debbe Philips, c/o
The Ministry of Caring,
115 East 14th Street,
WILMINGTON, DE 19801-3209**

(302) 652-5523 dphilips@ministryofcaring.org