



*A Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of
St Teresa of Avila and
St John of the Cross*
AVILA - SEGOVIA - TOLEDO

Led by Fr Matthew Blake

30th September - 7th October 2013



St Theresa with St John of the Cross breathed new life into the ancient Order of Carmel, descendants of the hermits on Elijah's mountain where he had heard the Lord in the 'still small voice' of silence.

And in doing so they gave to the Church continuing and vigorous powerhouses of prayer through the life and sacrifice, witness and dedication of generous women and men in their Monasteries around the world.

Day one - Monday 30th September 2013

Gatwick - Madrid - Avila

Scheduled flight by BA/IB from Heathrow to Madrid. On arrival, transfer by coach to our hotel in Avila, which is situated within the walls of the medieval city. Dinner on each evening of our five-night stay in Avila will be in the hotel or in a local restaurant.

Day two - Tuesday 1st October

Avila

Avila was the birthplace of St Teresa, whose legacy is everywhere in the beautiful town, which is also renowned as the home of contemporary mysticism. We will be able to see the town as St Teresa would have known it, including the Convent de la Santa, built over the site of her birthplace, and the Convent of St Joseph, the first one founded by St Teresa. This convent of Discalced Carmelites was dedicated to St Joseph because Teresa had a great devotion to him. Mass will be celebrated during the morning. Afternoon at leisure.

Day three - Wednesday 2nd October

Avila - Alba de Tormes

After breakfast we visit the Convent of the Incarnation just north of Avila (outside the walls) where Teresa lived for 27 years, and where she was prioress when St John of the Cross was Confessor, between 1572 - 1576. Also, we visit the Catholic University of Avila, near to the convent (subject to confirmation). Lunch at choice in Avila. In the afternoon we drive to the village of Alba de Tormes (50 miles from Avila), where the body and other relics of St Teresa are kept. Teresa founded the convent of the Annunciation here in 1571, and returned to it to die. Mass will be celebrated here before returning to Avila.

Day four - Thursday 3rd October

Segovia

This morning, we drive to Segovia (about 45 miles), one of the most beautiful and evocative towns in Spain. It was here in 1588 that St John of the Cross was made Prior of the Discalced Carmelites. We visit the 17th century convent where the body of St John is buried (minus several limbs which were taken as relics to other parts of Spain). Mass will be celebrated here. We can also walk on our own under the walls of the Alcazar to visit the Church of the True Cross (Vera Cruz), a parish church since 1312. The afternoon will be at leisure. Return to our hotel in Avila.

Day five - Friday 4th October

Fontiveros and Medina del Campo

After breakfast we drive to Fontiveros (about 30 miles), the birthplace of St John of the Cross (1542 - 1591). He lived here for the first six years of his life. A chapel has been built over the site of his home, where Mass will be celebrated, and there is a convent of

Carmelite Sisters next to it. Afterwards, continue north to the small town of Medina del Campo, which was famous for its trade fairs in the middle ages and where the Catholic Queen Isabel died in 1504. Worth visiting (but entrance fees not included) are the Collegiate Church of San Antolin which is of cathedral size and contains the chapel of Virgen del Popolo, and the Castle of La Mota, where Cesare Borgia was kept prisoner for two years. Return to Avila in the late afternoon.

Day six - Saturday 5th October

Avila - Toledo

After breakfast, Mass will be celebrated in Avila, with the rest of the morning at leisure. In the afternoon we leave Avila and drive south to Toledo (about 80 miles) where we check into our hotel, for dinner and a two-night stay.

Day seven - Sunday 6th October

Toledo

It was to Toledo that St John of the Cross was taken and imprisoned on the orders of the Carmelite Provincial in December 1577, for having supported the election of Teresa as Prioress of Avila. He was held in a dark, windowless cell in the basement of the Carmelite Convent for eight months, before escaping after receiving a vision of Our Lady in a dream. Earlier, during centuries of Castilian rule, Toledo became a city of learning and culture, before the horrors of the Inquisition put an end to this, with many men and women put to death and much of the Jewish and Moorish population expelled. The capital of Spain moved to Madrid. Visits are recommended, to the Cathedral, whose interior is matched by very few Gothic churches in Spain. Also recommended (but entrance fees not included) are: the house and museum of El Greco where the painter lived for 33 years; the Church of Santo Tome to view El Greco's *Burial of the Count of Orgaz*. Sunday Mass will be celebrated during the day.

Day eight - Monday 7th October

Toledo - Madrid - Gatwick

After breakfast, transfer to Madrid Airport for the return flight to Heathrow. If the flight is in the late afternoon, there will be some time at leisure in Toledo before departure.



This itinerary is subject to change without prior notification

PRICE = £839

Includes:

- ◆ Return scheduled flights with BA/IB: Heathrow - Madrid.
- ◆ 20kg luggage allowance per person.
- ◆ U.K. and Spain airport departure taxes.
- ◆ 7-nights accommodation in shared twin bedded rooms with private facilities as follows:
30th Sep. - 5th Oct. Hotel Las Moradas, 3 star (or similar), Avila.
5th - 7th Oct. Hotel Alfonso VI, 4 star (or similar), Toledo.
- ◆ 7 breakfasts and 7 dinners.
- ◆ All touring and transfers in Spain by air-conditioned coach, as per the itinerary.
- ◆ Pax Travel Tour Manager.
- ◆ Entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- ◆ Religious services.
- ◆ ATOL and AITO financial protection.

Extras:

- ◇ Travel insurance currently at £29.50 per person.
- ◇ Single room supplement at £133 per person for 7 nights (limited number of single rooms available).
- ◇ Meals apart from those in the itinerary, drink and souvenirs.
- ◇ Fuel surcharges if passed on by the airline.
- ◇ U.K. transfers.
- ◇ Gratuities to guides, drivers and hotel staff.

You can reserve your place on the tour by completing a booking form and returning it to Mrs Dawnay with a deposit of £150 (plus the insurance premium if the cover we offer is required) per person. Please make the cheque payable to Pax Travel Ltd.

The above price is guaranteed until 1st October 2012, after which date there may be a flight surcharge.

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