

Sacred France with Finbarr Ross

In search of Mary Magdalene, the Cathars, & Joan of Arc

September 1 – 14, 2014



A spiritual adventure to explore Mary Magdalene, the legends of the Holy Family, the Black Madonna, The Holy Grail, Cathars, Knights Templar and Troubadours! Journey to France to experience a land rich in tradition and absorb the energies of this ancient European culture and it's Celtic roots.



Finbarr Ross is a facilitator on Mary Magdalene and the Grail legends and will bring in the energy of ascension through meditations and group experience. Finbarr is a facilitator of self-discovery, spiritual wisdom and emotional healing. He has been on a spiritual journey his entire life and his mission is personal growth with humor as a key to self-transformation. He has been facilitating sacred site tours since 1994 and brings with him a wealth of knowledge. Finbarr promises a unique and truly individual experience for all who choose to travel with him.

September 1, 2014. Monday - Day 1 Arrival in France. Please book your flight to arrive in the morning. The group will begin this sacred journey as we depart Nice Airport at 1.00 pm. First we journey to **St. Baume**, feel its essence and experience a wonderful chapel with **Mary Magdalene** frescos. We overnight in our hotel near St Baume.

September 2nd - Tuesday - Day 2 Today we experience the **Grotte de la St Baume**. Be prepared for a forty (40) minute, ascent to approach this mystical cave where **the Magdalene** is said to have passed the last years of her life and written her memoirs. Feel the mystery of this special mountain which was and is **sacred to Isis** and has been considered holy ground for thousands of years. The natural water that accumulates here is believed to have curative powers. On to our hotel in Arles for dinner and overnight.

September 3rd - Wednesday - Day 3 Experience a walk around **Arles**, which contains wonderful monuments and remains of the highly developed Roman Empire. These were contemporaneous with the *Grail family's arrival* in this region, approximately 2004 years ago.

We will visit **St. Trophimus Church**, with all its mystery and the Church of Mary Magdalene starting points of the journey to St. James in Compostela. There was also a major *Templar stronghold* here.

Noon departure for **Saintes Maries de La Mer** to visit the church associated with *the arrival of the Grail Family from Palestine* with its holy well and to meet the most beautiful and powerful '**Black Madonna**', revered by the Gypsies of Europe as **St. Sarah** and much, much more. In this magical village of Saintes Maries de la Mer, set in the dramatic Camargue amidst herds of wild horses, black bulls, and flocks of flamingos, we will experience a picnic lunch on the beach and paddling (or swimming) in the Mediterranean. Return to our hotel in Arles. Group dinner.

September 4th - Thursday - Day 4: Early morning departure for **Carcassonne** where we spend the day exploring in the **Old City of Carcassonne**, a unique example of a fortified medieval city, known for its Cathar beliefs and history. In ancient times, **Carcassonne** was a major commercial and ceremonial center for the **Druids** and the **Phoenicians**. Overnight in Carcassonne with group dinner.

September 5th - Friday - Day 5: Today we drive to the small, unchanged town of **Minerve**, place of Cathar burning where 150 'Parfaits' were burned as heretics on the feast day of Mary Magdalene in 1210. We experience the **Dove of Minerve**, the village church, Cathar Museum and the

beautiful art colony at **Aigne** which also houses a beautiful **Black Madonna**. In the late afternoon, we depart for our hotel near Rennes le Chateau with group dinner.

September 6th - Saturday - Day 6: We travel to Monts gur, Cathar seminary and citadel of their last resistance. In May, 1243, in order to appease the pope, the King of France instigated a ten-month blockage of Monts gur. A 15-day truce was negotiated in March 1244, at the end of which the Cathars had to choose to either renounce their faith or perish at the stake. 220 Cathars chose death on the pyre. Return to our hotel near Rennes le Chateau, group dinner.

September 7th through 8th - Sunday - Day 7/Monday - Day 8: We experience a very beautiful Black Madonna and Healing well in Limoux; **Rennes le Chateau**, former Visigoth capital of the region, to visit the *Abbe Sauniere's Villa Bethania*. We will tour the church, museum, gardens and the environs of Magdala, and absorb the atmosphere of this ancient historical place. We visit the Source, **Arques, Mount Bugarach**, site of an ancient Essene community. Time for sharing, integration and journaling, ect in the gardens of our hotel. Return to our hotel near Rennes le Chateau, group dinner.

September 9th - Tuesday - Day 9: Morning departure from **Lourdes**, arriving there in the afternoon. We immerse ourselves in the Lourdes experience and at 9:00pm we will have a transformational visit to the *Grotto and its special healing water*. Tonight we stay in Lourdes, group dinner.

September 10th - Wednesday - Day 10: Morning departure from Lourdes as we today travel to **Rocamadour**. **Rocamadour** was a famous goal of Medieval pilgrims coming to worship the Black Madonna. The **12th century basilica of St. Sauveur** is built in the cliff face and at its entrance is a sword dangling from the rock. The **sacred crypt of St. Amadour**, the hermit, holds powerful energy. Taking the lift to the upper town one gets not only breathtaking views of the valley below and of the surrounding mountains but of a most **powerful Black Madonna** reputed to have been carved by Saint Amadour himself. The buildings of Rocamadour rise in stages up the side of a cliff on the right bank of the Alzou, which here runs between rocky walls 400 ft. in height. Flights of steps ascend from the lower town to the churches, a group of massive buildings half-way up the cliff. The chief of them is the pilgrimage church of Notre Dame (rebuilt in its present configuration from 1479 Overnight in **Rocadamour**. Group dinner. Tonight we stay in **Rocamadour**, group dinner.

September 11th - Thursday - Day 11: This morning we continue to enjoy **Rocamadour** departing for Chartres where we will overnight and share a group dinner.

September 12th - Friday - Day 12: We depart our hotel early to fully experience **Chartres Cathedral**, with a history dating back to the 4th century. It was erected during a time of religious peace brought about by the Emperor Constantine. Chartres is rich with mysterious sacred imagery and sacred geometry and is said to be encoded with the secrets of the universe. It was established on a hilltop, where a sacred forest once stood. A well beneath the cathedral was sacred to the Druids and is said to be a miraculous source of healing water. It is said to house the tunic of the **Blessed Mother, the Sancta Canisia**, since 876 when it was given by Charlemagne after he received it as a gift from Jerusalem. **The Cathedral today is one of mystery and majesty**. It is a holy place of rare architectural beauty, with its **160 stained glass windows**, crypt, labyrinth, and unique silhouette above the landscape. The standout feature at Chartres is the labyrinth, installed into the Cathedral floor in the year 1200. Finbarr will explain the history of the labyrinth and address the path of enlightenment that is opened to us via the 11-circuit Chartres labyrinth. Free time to explore and ponder on your own. Return to our hotel in Chartres, group dinner.

September 13th - Saturday - Day 13: An early departure to Paris where our hotel is splendidly located close to both the **Louvre and the lovely River Seine**. We travel to the **Left Bank** to the historic **Church of San Sulpice** in search of "**The Magdalene Line**" and much more including clues

to her children. Visit the Louvre to view the paintings associated with Mary Magdalene and the Grail legends. Free time to explore this world famous museum on your own and/or shop its gallery stores or the adjacent 'Carousel du Louvre' mall. This evening the tour ends with a farewell dinner in celebration for all we experienced on this sacred journey.

September 14th - Sunday - Day 14: Today we depart for our home city or continue to explore Paris grateful for all we experienced on this sacred journey.

Tour Cost: \$4,175.00

- Tour Cost in double room \$4,175.00 per person paid by check
Credit card payments add 4%
- Single supplement rate \$800 (additional)

Includes

- All hotel accommodations (13 nights)
- All entrance fees to sites
- All ground transportation
- Full breakfast and dinner each day
- Tips to drivers, guides, hotel and restaurant staff are included

Tour Does *Not* Include

- International Airfare
- Meals not mentioned in itinerary
- Personal expenses, phone calls, laundry, valet service etc.
- Mineral water, tea, coffee, soda or after meal beverages

* 2014 Tour price is guaranteed unless the US \$/Euro exchange rate drops 5% or more from the 11/1/12 rates or gasoline goes up over 5% from 11/12 UK prices. If required, a fuel or exchange-rate surcharge will be declared in June. This has never exceeded \$100 per person.

**To register for this tour contact
Gayle Lawrence – Journeys of Discovery**

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Travel Insurance

Each individual is responsible for all insurances and international travel arrangements. We strongly recommend you purchase trip cancellation, baggage and emergency medical travel insurance.

Ask about Assistance with flight arrangements and how to purchase travel insurance