**BASILICA OF ST MARY’S PILGRIMAGE TO SPAIN**
under the spiritual leadership of *Rev. Jim Curran*
Visiting Malaga, Granada, Seville, Madrid, Seville, Barcelona
September 9-18, 2020

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**Day 1 - Málaga**

Granada bus transfer (assistant not travelling with group). Evening will be spent in the Granada Center Hotel.

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**Day 2 - Granada**

Morning breakfast in the Granada Center Hotel. Spend the morning in Granada then visit Alhambra and Generalife. Guided tour of the Alhambra Palace, the most beautiful medieval building of Arab art in the world, and the Generalife gardens. Located on a hill called Assabica it completely dominates the city. The indescribable beauty of its courtyards and palaces represents the splendor of the city in the middle ages. The Gardens of Generalife, with its beautiful fountains, were a resting place for the Nazarid kings. We will enjoy the soothing sound of the water in this lovely place. Afternoon guided tour to visit the cathedral and the Royal Chapel, the burial place of the Catholic king considered a masterpiece of the Renaissance art in Spain. Stroll through the nearby Alcaiceria, full of craft shops. Within walking distance is the square of Bib-Rambla, also called the Square of Flowers, which is always full of activity. Spend the evening in Granada Center Hotel.

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**Day 3 - Sevilla**

Morning breakfast in the Granada Center Hotel and departure for Sevilla to St. María Bosco and the bullring, guided tour of city to visit its beautiful and all-stone arena - the oldest in Spain. Continue on visit to the Church of Santa María la Mayor, with its mixture of Gothic and Baroque styles. Evening will be spent in the Granada Center Hotel.

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**Day 4 - Sevilla**

Morning breakfast in the Granada Center Hotel. We will then visit the cathedral and Giralda (2.30 hrs away) and a guided city tour to include the gothic cathedral - the third largest in the world and where the tomb of Christopher Columbus resides. The bell tower, called La Giralda, was once the minaret when this was a mosque. Now it is a symbol of the city and also offers a spectacular view of
the panorama. We will take a walk to the Quarter of Santa Cruz, a colorful maze of alleys, small squares, and beautiful gardens, and an opportunity to rest a while. The afternoon is spent here in Sevilla and the Reales Alcázares. The evening: will be spent in the Sevilla Center Hotel.

Day 5 - Madrid
Morning breakfast in the Sevilla Center hotel and departure for Madrid, starting with a visit of the mosque in Córdoba. A guided tour of the city will feature its capital and royal residence of the Middle Ages. In the 13th century Muslims, Jews and Christians lived together peacefully and the city flourished as a great cultural and monumental center. We will enjoy walking along its narrow streets where its history can be felt in the air. We will visit the interiors of the Synagogue of Santa Maria la Blanca and the Cathedral of St Tome where the painter El Greco’s masterpiece is located. The evening will be spent in the Mayorazgo Hotel.

Day 6 - Madrid
Morning breakfast in the Mayorazgo Hotel and departure for a guided city tour, stopping at the Royal Palace and the old part of the town called the Madrid of the Ausburg Dynasty (15th to 18th century), where Madrid eventually became the capital of a huge Empire. We will visit the charming downtown area known as Plaza Mayor with its Plaza de la Villa and the Royal Palace, which was rebuilt in the 19th century and where all important official ceremonies are still celebrated.

Day 7 - Madrid
Morning breakfast in the Mayorazgo Hotel and travel to Avila, the birthplace of St. Teresa who left such a deep footprint in this city. We will visit the Cathedral of St. Teresa which is integrated into the city wall that formed part of its defensive fortifications. The interior of this splendid cathedral, shows the grandeur of a Gothic temple. Nearby we will visit the Alcazar which was the favorite residence of several Castilian kings during the Middle Ages, surely because of its spectacular location on a hill overlooking the river and its impressive surrounding areas. On to Segovia for a visit of its cathedral, the Alcazar, and a guided city tour of this medieval city before spending the evening in the Mayorazgo Hotel.
Day 8 - Zaragoza

Morning breakfast in the Mayorazgo Hotel and departure for Zaragoza and a visit of the Pilar Basilica which is the emblematic symbol of the city and is dedicated to the Virgin of El Pilar - also Spain’s patron. Painted on the walls are several frescos by Goya. We continue on to another cathedral of La Seo before spending the evening in the Sunotel Club Central Hotel.

Day 9 - Barcelona

Morning breakfast in the Sunotel Club Central Hotel followed by an exploration of the wonders of Barcelona, most notably the Sagrada Familia. The guided city tour is dedicated to the Modernist art that was favored by Antonio Gaudi at the beginning of the 20th century, and definitively marked the present semblance of the city. We will stroll along Paseo de Gracia, Gaudi’s famous apartment buildings, Casa Batlló and La Pedrera. Afterwards we will visit the astonishing interior of his masterpiece, the Sagrada Familia (Church of the Holy Family) which is richly and symbolically decorated and its ceiling reaches seventy meters. In the afternoon we will be on a guided excursion to Montserrat. It is a spectacular massif with an unusual shape where you will have a splendid panoramic view of the surroundings. It is regarded as a sacred mountain of Catalonia because different monasteries have occupied the area for more than 1200 years, and because it houses the venerated patron of the area, a black virgin statue called ‘La Moreneta’. The evening will be spent in the Sunotel Club Central Hotel.

Day 10 - Barcelona

Enjoy your complimentary breakfast in the Sunotel Club Central hotel on your last day in beautiful Barcelona before returning home where you will arrive on the same day.