

14
DAYS

DOMINICAN EDUCATION AUSTRALIA

2025 Pilgrimage to *the Lands of Dominic*

11 Nights / 14 Days • Commences Thursday 3rd April 2025

Madrid (2 Nights) / Salamanca (1) / Caleruega (3) / San Sebastian (1) /
Toulouse (1) / Mirepoix (2) / Vence (1)



the genuine pilgrim experience

harvest
journeys



CHURCH OF SAN SEBASTIAN



PLAZA MAYOR

pilgrim highlights

- + Experience renowned art at the Prado Museum and visit the Monasterio St Dominic El Real to see St. Dominic's Baptismal Font.
- + Explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Salamanca, with its historic sandstone buildings, Convento de San Esteban, and the oldest Christian university in Spain.
- + Visit Caleruega, the birthplace of St. Dominic, to tour the Nuns Convent and Church of San Sebastian.
- + Explore Toulouse's historic sites including Peter Seilhan's house and the Church of the Jacobins, then journey to Fanjeaux to discover St. Dominic's life at the Monastery of Prouilhe.
- + Discover the charm of Mirepoix and Carcassonne's medieval architecture, then visit Vence to admire the Dominican Chapel of the Rosary created by Henri Matisse.

SYMBOLS

(B) = Breakfast (L) = Lunch (D) = Dinner

DAY 4: SUNDAY 6 APRIL – VIA SEGOVIA TO SALAMANCA

After an early breakfast we depart Madrid and travel north by coach to **Segovia**, where we will visit the **Cave of Saint Dominic**.

Departing Segovia, we journey west to **Salamanca**, the Golden City, owing to the colour of its historic sandstone buildings. In 1988 the Old City of Salamanca was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. In the 16th century at the University "The School of Salamanca" gave birth to a renaissance of thought. Among other Dominicans, Francesco de Vitoria OP (1483-1586) considered the Founder of International Law, was a leader in this renaissance.

Upon arrival we enjoy a tour of Salamanca where we will visit the 16th century **Convento de San Esteban** with the façade looking very much like a tapestry in stone. We have the opportunity to pray at the tombs of Dominicans who have gone before us.

See the oldest Christian university in Spain, founded in 1218 by Alfonso IX of Leon. The **University** proudly boasts of having had among its students and professors such outstanding figures as St Ignatius of Loyola and St John of the Cross. Continue on to the **Plaza Mayor**, one of the most beautiful squares in Spain and one of the best examples of Baroque architecture.

Salamanca overnight (BD)

DAY 5: MONDAY 7 APRIL – VIA AZA TO CALERUEGA

Departing Salamanca, we travel east by coach through the Spanish countryside. En route we will visit **Aza**, the birthplace of Dominic's mother. Finally we arrive at Caleruega, the home of Bl Jane of Aza and Felix Guzman and birthplace of their sons, St Dominic, Bl Mannes and Anthony. On arrival we will proceed to our accommodation for check-in.

In walking the uneven streets of this tiny, sun-drenched village and meeting the hospitable folk who live there, and in climbing up the hill of San Jorge which towers above it, revealing limitless vistas beyond, we discover Dominic by getting a feel for the harsh but beautiful land which shaped him in his earliest years.

Caleruega overnight (BD)

DAY 6: TUESDAY 8 APRIL – CALERUEGA & SURROUNDS

We begin our day with a tour of Caleruega. A highlight includes the **Dominican Nuns Convent**, formerly the home of the Guzman family. A highlight here is **the Crypt** where a well marks the spot where Dominic was born around 1170. It is now the centrepiece of a chapel which is adorned with exquisite mosaics depicting scenes from Dominic's life.

Nearby is the **Torreón**, or Tower which now houses an interesting museum and offers a wonderful view from its top. Continue on to the **Church of San Sebastian** where Dominic was baptised. The original twelfth century apse is still preserved, even though the church has undergone numerous reconstructions. There will be an opportunity to climb the hill of San Jorge, so familiar to Dominic's family, which towers above the village.

Caleruega overnight (BD)

DAY 7: WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL – EL BURGO DE OSMÁ, GUMIEL DE IZAN & SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS

This morning we travel to **Santo Domingo De Silos**. This is the home of the great **Benedictine Abbey** of Santo Domingo de Silos, after whose patron our Dominic was named. Dominic's mother, Blessed Jane of Aza, is reputed to have prayed there before Dominic's birth.

The abbey is famous for its beautiful Romanesque cloister and for spreading the best traditions of Gregorian chant throughout the world. Proceed to **El Burgo de Osma** and visit the ancient **Cathedral** where Dominic, aged 25, became a canon. It was from here he left on the missionary journey that changed his life.

We then visit **Gumiel de Izan**, a parish near Caleruega where, according to tradition, Dominic received his early education from his parish priest uncle before attending the University of Palencia.

Caleruega overnight (BD)

DAY 8: THURSDAY 10 APRIL – VIA BURGOS TO SAN SEBASTIAN

We depart Caleruega this morning and travel the scenic countryside stopping en route at

DAY 1: THURSDAY 3 APRIL – DEPART FOR SPAIN

DAY 2: FRIDAY 4 APRIL – ARRIVE MADRID

On arrival we will be met and transferred to our centrally located hotel, where the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Madrid overnight (D)

DAY 3: SATURDAY 5 APRIL – MADRID

This morning we visit the famed **Prado Museum** followed by a visit to the **Monasterio St Dominic El Real** and see Dominic's Baptismal Font.

Remainder of the day at leisure.

Madrid overnight (BD)



CARCASSONNE



Burgos, where we will have some free time to visit the **Cathedral** and the great monument to the three later Dominicans down by the river.

We then later arrive in **San Sebastian**. Remainder of the day at leisure.

San Sebastian overnight (BD)

DAY 9: FRIDAY 11 APRIL – SAN SEBASTIAN TO TOULOUSE

We depart San Sebastian this morning by coach for **Toulouse**, the 'pink city'. Upon arrival we will enjoy some free time for lunch before our sightseeing this afternoon.

In the ancient city of Toulouse there are several places of special significance to the Dominicans. Visit **Peter Seilhan's house**. This merchant of Toulouse gave his property to Dominic for the first residence of his preaching community. Part of the original house still stands. What was Dominic's room is now a small chapel.

We will visit **Rangueil Monastery** for vespers and continue on to our hotel for check-in.

Toulouse overnight (BD)

DAY 10: SATURDAY 12 APRIL – TOULOUSE TO MIREPOIX VIA FANJEAUX

After breakfast we visit the **Church of the Jacobins**. It is in this beautiful church, given to the Dominicans in 1230, that we find the relics of St Thomas Aquinas. When Pope Urban V gave custody of Thomas' relics to the Toulouse brethren in 1369 he wrote: "Just as St Thomas shines out among the Doctors of the Church by the beauty of his style and his thought, so this Toulouse church surpasses in beauty all other churches of the Friars Preachers. I choose it for St Thomas and I wish that his body should be placed there". Beside the church is a magnificent cloister, which has been fully restored.

We then proceed to **Fanjeaux**. Situated high on a hill in the lush countryside of southern France, its history dates back to Roman times. Dominic lived and laboured for several years in this place, once a stronghold of the Albigensian heresy.

Upon arrival we will visit the **Monastery of Prouilhe**, a kilometre or two down the hill from Fanjeaux, which was established in 1206, but destroyed in 1789 during the French Revolution and refounded in 1890. It is revered as the site

of the first Dominican community – celebrating over 800 years of existence! One of the nuns will outline the history and share some of their archival treasures with us. Here we will learn more about the significance of the 'Seignadou', the 'sign from God'.

Legend has it that on a stormy evening, sitting in his garden, Dominic was puzzling about where to house the women who wished to be converted; a flash of lightning came to rest near an old disused church in need of repair – the church of Our Lady of Prouilhe. At Prouilhe we will also hear the story of the Basilica and see the work which is underway to complete this amazing building.

Visit **Dominic's house** now a tiny chapel, it irresistibly evokes the presence of the poor preacher and his years of struggle prior to the foundation of the Order.

Continue on to the 'Seignadou', a landmark on the skyline, marking the scene of a famous event in Dominic's life.

We continue on to Mirepoix for dinner and hotel check in.

Mirepoix overnight (BD)

DAY 11: SUNDAY 13 APRIL – MONDAY - MIREPOIX & CARCASSONNE

Visit this morning the renown Mirepoix markets, one of the most beautiful markets in the region. Continue on a walking tour of this 13th Century village and the Saint-Maurice cathedral.

This afternoon we will travel to **Carcassonne**, the medieval walled town which lies on the right bank of the River Aude and is featured on UNESCO's World Heritage list. It has 52 towers and 2 rings of town walls making a total of 3 km of battlements.

Carcassonne offers a wealth of monuments to visit and discover! Dominic preached a series of Lenten sermons here in the Cathedral in 1215.

Mirepoix overnight (BD)

DAY 12: MONDAY 14 APRIL – VIA AVIGNON TO VENCE

This morning we travel from Mirepoix via **Avignon** and arrive late afternoon into **Vence**.

Vence overnight (BD)

DAY 13: TUESDAY 15 APRIL – VENCE TO NICE AIRPORT

Following breakfast we will visit the **Dominican Chapel** of the Rosary created by artist Henri Matisse. Continue onto Nice airport for your homebound flights this afternoon.

(B)

DAY 14: WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL – ARRIVE AUSTRALIA

PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

TOUR CODE	PV2517
STARTS	Thursday 3 April 2025
FINISHES	Wednesday 16 April 2025
LAND COST	AUD \$6890 (twin share) *
SINGLE ROOM	AUD \$2070 Supplement
ESTIMATED RETURN AIRFARE	AUD \$2900 per person
PREPAID TIPS	AUD \$240 per person

* Costs have been based on prices as at March 2024 and must remain subject to possible change in the event of significant exchange rate variations, tax increases or minimum group size (20) factors beyond Harvest's control. Refer to Harvest Booking Terms & Conditions for more details. Please note, international flights are not included.

INCLUSIONS

ACCOMMODATION & MEALS: Based on Superior Standard / 4-Star accommodation
• 11 Full Breakfasts / 10 Dinners.

TOURING & TRANSPORTATION: Deluxe Air Conditioned Coach touring • Professional Local Guides • Sightseeing and Entrance Fees.

OTHER: Portage at hotels • Harvest Backpack, Pilgrim Journal and Tour Wallet.

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