



Experience the Spirit of Camaraderie, Culture, and Exploration. Embark on the 5th “Off the Bedan Path” adventure. Join Abbot Michael Calhoun, OSB ‘89, as we journey through vibrant cities of Spain & France. From historic landmarks to cultural treasures, this unforgettable experience will strengthen our bonds and feed our love of travel and fellowship.



March 27 - April 6, 2025

“Basque, Lourdes & Barcelona: A Pilgrimage of Culture”

SPAIN & FRANCE

INCLUDED FEATURES:

- Organized transportation for those traveling from St. Bede Academy.
- Social gathering to introduce the trip.
- Social gathering pre-departure with packing and travel tips.
- One arrival and departure airport transfer for the group flight.
- Service charges, hotel taxes and mandatory tourist city taxes.
- Luggage handling at hotels (one piece per person).
- All transportation with modern A/C motor-coach as per itinerary.
- Customized travel log.
- English-speaking guide with us the entire time.
- English-speaking licensed local guides.
- Accommodations in 4 star hotels.
- Whisper technology enhanced touring.
- Sightseeing tours and walking tours per itinerary.
- Entrance fees included indicated in bold letters.
- OTBP Welcome Dinner Party.



- Evening walking Pintxos dining experience.
- Lourdes candlelight procession.
- OTBP Farwell Dinner Party.
- Daily breakfast and dinner.
- Private Mass with Abbot Michael.

“Life was meant for good friends and great adventures.”

ITINERARY

DAY 1: DEPART THE USA

Thursday, March 27, 2025 - Depart from the USA for an overnight flight to Bilbao, Spain.

DAY 2: BILBAO, SPAIN

Friday, March 28, 2025 - Upon arrival at the airport, enjoy a smooth transfer to your hotel in Bilbao. Welcome to the capital of the Vizcaya province, located in Spain's vibrant Basque Country. Bilbao is renowned for its rich cultural heritage and its tradition of gastronomic excellence. After checking into your hotel, unwind and savor a delightful welcome dinner party.

Overnight at Hotel Catalonia Gran Via Bilbao (D)



DAY 3: BILBAO & SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN



Saturday, March 29, 2025 - After enjoying breakfast, check out of your hotel and embark on a morning guided tour of Bilbao. Key highlights include the iconic **Guggenheim Museum**, famous for its striking architecture and contemporary art collections, and the charming **Old Town (Casco Viejo)**, where you'll explore historic streets, the beautiful **Church of San Nicolás**, and the lively **Plaza Nueva**. Don't miss the chance to admire the impressive **bridges of Bilbao**, offering scenic views of the city. In the afternoon, you'll depart for **San Sebastian**, a stunning coastal city known for its beaches and world-class cuisine. Arrive in time for dinner and enjoy a relaxing evening at your hotel.

Overnight at Hotel Catalonia Donosti (B, D)

DAY 4: SAN SEBASTIAN, SPAIN

Sunday, March 30, 2025 - After breakfast, attend **Mass** at a local church. Following the service, spend your day enjoying the beauty of **San Sebastian**, a sophisticated coastal city nestled on the crescent-shaped **Bay of La Concha**. Known for its elegance, San Sebastian is home to some of Spain's most fashionable beach resorts.

Take a leisurely stroll along the **Paseo de la Concha**, a pedestrian-only promenade that winds along the beach, adorned with decorative railings and charming street lamps. Just a short walk from the Bay of Concha is the lively **Alameda del Boulevard**, a tree-lined avenue brimming with shops, restaurants, and cafés, and a central hub of San Sebastián's life. From here, explore the charming **Old Town (Parte Vieja)**, where you'll visit the impressive **Basilica of Santa María del Coro**, one of the city's most famous landmarks and a must-see attraction.



In the evening, immerse yourself in the local food culture with our **walking pintxos tour**, where you'll experience the city's renowned tapas culture. Enjoy a variety of delicious small bites paired with local drinks as you explore the best of San Sebastian's culinary scene.

Overnight at Hotel Catalonia Donosti (B, D)

DAY 5: BIARRITZ & LOURDES, FRANCE

Monday, March 31, 2025 - After breakfast and checking out of your accommodations, embark on your journey to Lourdes, France. Along the way, stop in **Biarritz**, a chic beach town in the Basque Country that has been a fashionable destination since Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoléon III, chose it for her summer holidays in the 19th century. Begin your visit with a stroll along the **Quai de la Grande Plage promenade**, a wide pedestrian walkway offering stunning views of the ocean waves crashing against the shore, with the Biarritz Lighthouse visible in the distance.



Next, visit the **Rocher de la Vierge**, an iconic statue of the Virgin Mary set atop a dramatic, narrow rock in the ocean, connected to the mainland by the sturdy **Passerelle Eiffel**, a metal pedestrian bridge designed by Gustave Eiffel himself. Continue your tour with a visit to the **Chapelle Impériale**, followed by the **Russian Orthodox Church** (built in 1890 by Russian aristocrats/immigrants), renowned for its Byzantine-style architecture. The church's interior is adorned with gilded icons from Saint Petersburg, giving it the appearance of a glittering jewel box.

After your time in Biarritz, continue your journey to Lourdes. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and enjoy dinner before resting for the night.

Overnight at Hotel Padoue (B, D)

DAY 6: LOURDES, FRANCE (Pilgrimage and Prayer)



Tuesday, April 1, 2025 - After breakfast, begin your day with an **orientation tour** of Lourdes, followed by the sacred **Water Gesture**. Pilgrims in Lourdes partake in drinking and washing at the invitation of the Virgin Mary, a tradition that began after February 25, 1858, when the Virgin Mary revealed to Saint Bernadette the location of the spring. Flowing at the base of the Grotto, this holy spring is where Our Lady of Lourdes calls us to “drink and wash ourselves.”

Later, gather for a prayerful moment at the **Grotto**, where you will join others in praying the rosary. Through this simple yet profound prayer, offered through the Virgin Mary, we entrust our lives, trials, joys, and loved ones into God’s hands. As you recite the Our

Father and Hail Mary, meditate on the key moments in Christ’s life, beautifully depicted in the mosaics adorning the **Rosary Basilica**.

Conclude your day with the **Torchlight Procession**, held at **9:00 p.m.**, a luminous and moving experience as you walk in prayerful reflection.

Overnight at Hotel Padoue (B, D)

DAY 7: CARCASSONNE, FRANCE (A Journey into the Middle Ages)

Wednesday, April 2, 2025 - After breakfast and checking out, embark on your journey to **Carcassonne**, a breathtaking medieval town known as **La Cité**, straight out of a fairy-tale. This remarkably preserved (and restored) fortified city offers an immersive experience into the Middle Ages and is recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Upon arrival, enjoy a **walking tour** of the city, starting with its most iconic feature: the **double-circuit ramparts with 52 towers**, a majestic sight that transports you back in time. As you explore, visit the **Basilique Saint-Nazaire et Saint-Celse**, famous for its stunning 13th-century stained-glass windows, offering a glimpse into the artistic beauty of the era.



Overnight at Hotel Les Chevaliers (B, D)



DAY 8: PERPIGNAN, GIRONA & BARCELONA, SPAIN

Thursday, April 3, 2025 - This morning, begin your journey to **Barcelona**, making two wonderful stops along the way. Your first stop is **Perpignan**, where you will visit the **Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist**. Next, continue to **Girona**, the sparkling crown jewel of Catalonia, renowned for its ancient ruins, vibrant old town, and impressive cathedral. Explore the **Old Town**, including **Força Vella** and the **Medieval Quarter**, before visiting the magnificent **Cathedral de Girona**, which boasts stunning architecture and breathtaking views. After your exploration of Girona, continue your journey to Barcelona.

Overnight at Hotel Les Chevaliers (B, D)

DAY 9: BARCELONA, SPAIN (The Heart of Catalonia)

Friday, April 4, 2025 - Enjoy a full day exploring **Barcelona**, Catalonia’s vibrant capital and a stunning seaside city that showcases its beauty and sunny lifestyle. With gorgeous scenery, breathtaking architecture, and superb cultural attractions, Barcelona is a truly alluring destination, enhanced by its balmy Mediterranean climate. Begin your day with an **orientation tour**, driving from the port directly to **Montjuïc Mountain** for a panoramic “bird’s-eye view” of the city. From there, pass by **Plaza España** as you approach the city center, renowned for its Modernist architecture. Antoni Gaudí has left an indelible mark on Barcelona with his avant-garde, surrealist buildings, many of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. You will see **Casa Milà** (known as “La Pedrera,” meaning “The Stone Quarry”), built between 1906 and 1912, as well as visit **Park Güell**, another of Gaudí’s surrealist masterpieces. Next, marvel at **Casa Batlló**, yet another iconic creation by Gaudí.

No visit to Barcelona would be complete without a tour of the **Sagrada Família**, Gaudí’s magnum opus, still under construction after more than a century. Stroll down **La Rambla**, Barcelona’s social hub, where flowers, music, live shows, cafes, shops, mimes, and vibrant terraces bring the street to life. Explore the atmospheric medieval quarter, the **Barri Gòtic**, which exudes an almost magical old-world charm. To cap off your day, enjoy a **Flamenco dinner** at a traditional local restaurant, immersing yourself in the rich culture and vibrant spirit of Spain.



Overnight at Hotel Catalonia Gracia (B, D)

DAY 10: MONSERRAT & BARCELONA, SPAIN

Saturday, April 5, 2025 - This morning, get ready for an exciting half-day excursion to **Montserrat**. Board a bus from Barcelona and set off toward the magical **Montserrat Mountain**. Once you arrive, you can choose to scale the mountain on the **cogwheel train** or the “**Aeri**” **cable car**, both offering stunning views of the surrounding landscape. Upon reaching the **Montserrat Monastery**, admire the breathtaking architecture and learn about its famed **Black Madonna** statue. Accompanied by your local guide, explore the site and delve into the rich history and architectural styles of the monastery, noting the beautiful **Gothic** and **Renaissance** details of the basilica and sanctuary. Discover the legend of the miraculous apparition of the Black Madonna and Child in the **Santa Cova** cave, and take a moment to visit the Church and see the Black Madonna in person.



During your time in Montserrat, there will be an opportunity to attend **Mass**. Afterward, enjoy some free time to sample the finest local liquors, shop for locally produced treats, or visit the audiovisual exhibition once your guided tour concludes.

In the late afternoon, return to Barcelona. In the evening, join us for a **farewell dinner** featuring live music at your hotel or a local restaurant, celebrating the wonderful experiences you’ve shared during your journey.

Overnight at Hotel Catalonia Gracia (B, D)

DAY 11: DEPART FOR HOME

Sunday, April 6, 2025 - Enjoy our last breakfast before we check out from the hotel and take the transfer to Barcelona Airport. (B)

HOTELS (The following hotels are subject to change based upon availability)

Hotel Catalonia Gran Via Bilbao (March 28) <https://www.cataloniahotels.com/es/hotel/catalonia-gran-via-bilbao>

Hotel Catalonia Donosti (March 29 - 30) <https://www.cataloniahotels.com/es/hotel/catalonia-donosti>

Hotel Padoue (Mar 31 - April 1) <https://hotelpadoue.fr/en/hotel-in-lourdes-france>

Hotel Les Chevaliers (April 2 - 3) <https://www.sowell.fr/en/les-chevaliers>

Hotel Catalonia Gracia (April 4 - 5) <https://www.cataloniahotels.com/es/hotel/catalonia-ramblas>

TRIP ADVISOR

Bonnie Pohar Prokup has been the Manager of Special Events at St. Bede Academy since 2009. Prior to that Bonnie has traveled extensively during her career at American Airlines. Bonnie has been out of the country more than 100 times on trips of all size that she organized. Since 2004 she has shared her passion for organizing large bus trips to Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Czech Republic, Ireland and Portugal. Her knowledge is shared long before departure with an informational meeting on the trip, a Facebook page for the group with tips and when it gets closer a packing demonstration and review of what to bring and do prior to the trip. Her trips are well known and sold out by many repeat customers. It’s exciting and fun that our St. Bede family is traveling to great places together. “I believe and work hard in offering the best value for the dollar and creating memories that will last a lifetime.”

LAND TOUR COST (Airfare is not included)

Double \$3,872 per person based on Double Occupancy

Single Supplement \$1,280 per person based on Single Occupancy

Terms and Conditions

How to make a reservation: Please call Kollander World Travel at 800-800-5981 x 7007 or 216-692-1000 x 7007, or send an e-mail to groups@kollander.com. Kollander World Travel will be happy to quote airfare options from your preferred city.

Deposit and payments: A non-refundable deposit of \$500 is required to hold your space. Final payment (balance) is due by February 10, 2025. Space is subject to availability in the moment of booking. If we do not receive payments by the specified date, we reserve the right to cancel the reservation. In the case of billing errors, we reserve the right to re-invoice with correct pricing.

Baggage Allowance: Baggage fees may apply. Check with your carrier for fees and size/weight of bags allowed. Due to the space restrictions aboard the motor coach the tour operator has requested that there be a limit of 1 suitcase weighing no more than 50 lbs. per person. Additionally, guests on tour should limit their hand luggage to a small carry-on piece and only those items needed during the day, since the overhead racks and/or under the seat storage only offer limited space. Every effort is made to ensure that baggage is properly handled. Kollander World Travel cannot be held responsible for damages, loss of luggage or personal belongings. Optional travel baggage insurance is recommended and available through Kollander World Travel.

Passport Requirements: For international travel, US citizens require a passport valid for at least 6 months following their return to the United States. To apply for a passport, you can contact your local passport office. Non-US citizens should contact the appropriate consulate for information on all necessary documents.

Tour Price Excludes: Airfare, customs user fees, passports, all visa fees, optional tours, telephone, and fax charges, excess baggage charges, sundry tips, laundry, beverages and food not specified in the itinerary, portage at U.S./Canada airports, travel insurance, service charges except where indicated and all other items of a personal nature.

Refund and Unused or Amended Tour Arrangements: Unused hotel accommodations, tour features, or services are non-refundable and non-exchangeable. If changes are requested by the traveler(s), any additional expenses will be charged to the traveler(s). If a change of accommodations becomes necessary for any reason, hotel(s) substituted will be the equivalent of those listed in the itinerary. Single rooms may be available at a supplemental charge.

Cancellation Penalties: Due to specific contracting conditions with

suppliers, all received payments are non-refundable. Trip cancellation insurance strongly recommended! Kollander World Travel reserves the right to cancel the program with full refund if number of participants drops below 35. Name change up to 7 days prior to departure permitted with \$50 change fee. Once airfare is purchased, it is generally non-refundable and fees apply for any changes. Cancellation charges also apply to all accommodations and other travel arrangements.

Insurance: You may secure a policy for baggage insurance, as well as insurance against sickness or accident, trip cancellation and interruption through Kollander World Travel. Important terms concerning pre-existing medical conditions, which may not be covered, are described in the insurance brochure which will be sent for your review, or available on www.kollander.com.

Revisions: A handling fee of U.S.D. \$50.00 per transaction may be charged for any alteration.

Responsibility Clause: Kollander World Travel, Cleveland, Ohio, (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") is responsible to you in making arrangements for travel and tour services as offered, including transportation, sightseeing and hotel accommodations. The Carriers, hotels and other suppliers providing tour services are independent contractors and are not agents, employees or servants of or joint ventures with the Company. All certificates and other travel documents for tour services issued by the Company are subject to the terms and conditions specified by the suppliers and to the laws of the countries in which services are supplied. If the services included cannot be supplied or there are changes in an itinerary for reasons beyond the control of the Company, the Company will arrange for the provision of comparable services. The Company reserves the right to make changes in the itinerary wherever the Company deems it necessary to the comfort, convenience or safety of the travelers, and to cancel a tour at any time. If the Company cancels a tour, it shall have no responsibility beyond the refund of all monies paid to the Company by the tour participant. The traveler agrees that the Company shall not be liable for any damages, loss (including personal injury, death and property loss) or expenses occasioned by any act or omission of any supplier providing tour services or of any other person. No person, other than an authorized representative of the Company by a document in writing, is authorized to vary any term or condition, including any term or condition set forth in the preceding provisions.

Note: Terms and conditions are subject to change without notice.

For Reservations Please complete and return this coupon with deposit to Kollander World Travel, 761 East 200th Street, Euclid, OH 44119 groups@kollander.com Tel: (800) 800-5981 x7007 Tel: (216) 692-1000 x7007

Off The Bedan Path 2025 - Spain & France

March 27 - April 6, 2025

Enclosed is my deposit of \$500 per person per trip and a photo of each passport. Deposit payment is due by November 1, 2024. Final payment is due February 10, 2025. I have agreed to the terms and conditions applicable to this tour package.

Signature: _____

Your personal and/or bank check welcome. If paying by credit card, please circle: AMEX, VISA, DISCOVER, MASTERCARD

Please send copies of your passports with deposit.

Name as it appears on your passport: _____ Birth Date: _____

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____/____ CCV #: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Mobile Phone: (____) _____

My City of Departure is: _____

Please advise of any requests: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Room Type: DOUBLE _____ TWIN _____ SINGLE ROOM _____ Limited Single Rooms Available*

Roommate's Name: _____

Travel Insurance: () YES, I will be purchasing travel insurance. () NO, I decline insurance protection.