



TEKTON MINISTRIES
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

**YOU'RE INVITED ON
A PILGRIMAGE TO
FRANCE**

April 17 - 27, 2026

GOthic, GRape & GRatITUDE
SACRED ENCOUNTERS

A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

Tekton Ministries has been leading Catholic pilgrimages all over the world for more than 25 years. Working closely with your priest to create thoughtfully planned itineraries, we help make the Catholic faith more tangible to your daily life. By visiting holy sites and shrines where Our Lady has appeared through the centuries, we hope your faith and relationship with the Blessed Mother will be reinvigorated and renewed by this pilgrimage. Although we visit numerous sites and shrines, daily Mass and time for prayerful reflection are important parts of each day's experience.

We use only experienced Christian or Catholic guides, so you receive truthful explanations of scripture and the places we encounter. When the disciple Philip asked the Eunuch (who was reading Isaiah) if he understood what he was reading, the man responded, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" (Acts 8:35) Just as Philip guided the Eunuch with "the good news of Jesus," your Tekton pilgrimage will guide you into a deeper understanding of the Scriptures. Our prayers, service, and love of our Lord go with you.

• Day 1 - Friday, April 17 *Depart USA*

Pilgrims depart from the USA to Paris Charles de Gaulle or Orly airport (flights coordinated individually by pilgrims), arriving the next morning.

• Day 2 - Saturday, April 18 *Arrive in Paris*

After settling in at the hotel, followed by a light lunch and orientation, our first sojourn is the Basilica of Sacre Coeur. Located at the summit of Montmartre (Martyrs Hill), the church is a shining beacon. As a modern church – it was consecrated in 1919 – it lacks the awe and punch of a gothic Cathedral. Still, it is a fitting start to our encounter with and reflection on beauty, representing a harmonious blend of historical echoes, architectural elements, early Christian history, and national pride. As you stand on the steps looking out across the city, ponder how Parisians could raise their eyes through the darkness of two world wars and see the Byzantine towers of white limestone offering hope. Is there a 'Sacre Coeur' in your life, a beacon of light shining down on you, a place of welcome, rest and rejuvenation? After our visit, pilgrims may want to grab a quick bite before gathering for a nightcap and conversation in the hotel bar.



Notre Dame de Paris

• Day 3 - Sunday, April 19

Paris: Grandeur Rising from the Ashes

This is a day of splendor, magnificence, beauty and rebirth, all framed by the charm of the Seine. We start at the grand lady of gothic cathedrals – Notre Dame de Paris for a guided tour and Mass. As pilgrims we will not only witness a 'new' Notre Dame; we will also stand on the threshold of a new horizon. We ask, 'What will we pass on to our children after the next fire, revolution or war? Ruins of stone and glass and a faith forgotten, or restored grandeur to rekindle a new fire burning within?' A pleasant stroll nearby is the Musee de Orsay, a great museum of impressionist paintings that surprisingly also has a noted collection which explores the human-divine interface, including Van Gogh's The Starry Night. Our main meal of the day follows, where we will receive an introduction to French wines as we savor a multi-course fare of Parisian foods. The rest of the day pilgrims are free to wander any of the pleasant neighborhoods throughout Paris. We will gather in the evening for a hosted nightcap.

• Day 4 - Monday, April 20

Paris: Splendor Written in Stone and Symbol

On this day of exploration and encounter, we visit Sainte Chapelle, the stunning medieval chapel of the French royalty, built to house sacred relics. Afterwards, we embark on a walking tour of four grand but often overlooked churches. Having seen Sacre Coeur and Notre Dame offers us a language to engage with each church, asking such questions as: 'What makes a particular church beautiful and worth visiting?' 'How do these churches increase my appreciation for the contributions and place of historical and prominent churches? How has visiting these churches increased my desire to find beauty and reverence in my life? Our inquiry continues over a multi-course feast with wine pairings. Pilgrims are then free the rest of the day, though in the evening we offer an optional sacred music concert at the Madeleine, another treasure of beauty, architecture, and history. After the concert, pilgrims are again invited at the hotel bar for a hosted nightcap.



Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Laon.

• Day 5 - Tuesday, April 21

Paris to Reims: Gothic and Gustatory Delights

Today as we depart Paris to explore some of the great medieval gothic cathedrals of France, we open a new chapter in our encounter with beauty, beginning some 90 miles northeast in the Champagne wine-growing region, to Reims, where we will tour the stunning Cathedral of Notre Dame de Reims and afterwards be treated to a tour, tasting and lunch at a local champagne house. After we check into our hotel, pilgrims will have the rest of the day to explore the quaint area around the cathedral. All are invited to close the day with conversation and a glass of wine or champagne at the hotel.

• Day 6 - Wednesday, April 22

Laon and Amiens: Beacons of Beauty

As we continue our sojourn across the verdant fields north of Paris, we visit two more spectacular Gothic cathedrals unique in their own history, design and beauty. A brief hour's drive is the picturesque medieval gem of Laon, home of the Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Laon. We will then journey to Amiens in the Somme country, famed since the Middle Ages for its textile industry and great gothic Cathedral of Notre-Dame. Another attraction of Amiens are the local cheeses at Les Halles du Belfroisnear. Mass will be at the cathedral, followed by a multi-course dinner of regional specialties and wines.

• Day 7 - Thursday, April 23

Rouen and Bayeux: Ruin, Restoration and Renewal

Today we transition to the region of Normandy and the third part of our pilgrimage: the blending of gothic, grape and gratitude in a region transformed by war. One hundred miles from the bucolic grandeur of Amiens is the port city of Rouen. Our focus will be on the story of Notre-Dame de l'Assomption de Rouen, highlighting its storied building phases, connection to Monet, and post-WWII restoration. Our next stop is the charming medieval city of Bayeux, once the hub of Normandy. Founded by William the Conqueror, the area possesses an expansive and deep history, from its romanesque churches, with their stocky Norman towers, to the grand Notre Dame de Bayeux, to its brandy and cheeses, to the beaches and battlefields of WWII. Here in Normandy pilgrims will be treated to some of the finest foods in Europe, grand castles and soaring cathedrals, stories of heroism from Kings to saints to soldiers, and moving displays of service, sacrifice and gratitude, as we journey from an 10th century abbey to the beaches of June 6, to the battle scarred and beauty of Saint-Lo, to the somber reality of the cost of war. We come to be renewed in spirit, mind and life, as well as grow in appreciation for and understanding of beauty through encountering sacred art and architecture, music and museums, culinary delights and fruits of the earth, and the stories and sites that will touch our hearts.

• Day 8 - Friday, April 24

Normandy: Stories of Service, Sacrifice and Faith

Today as we travel the backroads and battlefields of Normandy we will encounter a landscape of contrasts: ruin and restoration, battlements among beauty, sorrow and gratitude, solemnity and celebration. Our sojourn offers exploration of and insights into the human spirit of resilience and heroism, remembering and redemption. As pilgrims we ask at every site, 'What did I observe? What moved me? What can I take from my visit? Where might I be called to live with the same spirit as the men and women whose stories we heard?' Throughout the day, we will hear tales of the impact of a community, the witness of a silent hero, the actions that seemingly made no sense, yet all of which offer portals to gratitude and the leaven of hope, and give us a greater awareness and appreciation of the ways 'Christ plays in 10,000 places.' (Gerard Manley Hopkins.) We will spend time in the chapel at the Normandy American Cemetery for a short service to honor the hallowed site and 'to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.' (Abraham Lincoln)

• Day 9 - Saturday, April 25

Mont Saint Michel: Serenity in Seas, Skies and Stone

Today is a light day to facilitate continued reflection on the experiences and emotions of Normandy, as well as transition to the treasures of beauty of our final two days. As we head south through the coastal plains, one of the most stunning settings for a church greets us: the Abbey of Mont Saint Michel. Pilgrims can take a shuttle bus or pedestrian walkway across the tidal sands of the bay to the 17 acre St. Michaels Mount. As we ascend to the church, pilgrims are invited to stroll through the historic medieval town before we celebrate Mass in the abbey church. Following, pilgrims will have several options for a hosted lunch. The walk back will not only be invigorating and

invite picture taking of the coastal beauty, pilgrims can also relax as we drive through picturesque fields and forests of the Centre-Val de Loire region as we make our way to Chartres. After settling into our hotel, all are welcome to catch the dance of fading light upon the splendor of the cathedral and then join fellow pilgrims at the hotel for some 'sip and share.'

• Day 10 - Saturday, April 26

Chartres: Ancient Windows and New Vistas

On this final full day, we devote it to just one venue, the immense and glorious testament to beauty and the divine, the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Chartres. After breakfast pilgrims are invited to take a journey through time, architecture and craft as they wander the massive space and gaze in the glory in its stunning stained glass windows. This is a good opportunity to journal, revisit the itinerary and go through photos and other keepsakes. Later at the closing dinner, pilgrims will have an opportunity to offer their reflections and insights, and raise a glass to our shared journey of gothic, grape and gratitude.

• Day 11 - Sunday, April 27

The Return: A look back and a journey forward

Today we say goodbye to 10 glorious days of our encounter with beauty as we return to our homes. What will we take back? Pictures and souvenirs, or snapshots and reflections of the master mason inspiring and guiding the skilled hands and creative genius of the artisans who have given us Notre Dame and The Starry Night, Champagne and Calvados, Camembert and Crepes, St. Chapelle and Mont Saint Michel. We sat in the stalls of medieval monks, stood among the spiritual treasures of Musee d'Orsay, and prayed in 800 year-old churches. We gazed in awe at gothic masterpieces, and savored the rich foods and wines of Normandy. We walked among the fallen at Normandy, overlooked the beaches of valour, and pondered the resilience and resolve of humans to rebuild. We encountered a world bursting with beauty – in churches and sacred sites, museums and monuments, food and wine, seas and fields, ruin and restoration. We asked what it means to live with gratitude? We depart gladdened, overflowing with appreciation and commitment to see with new lenses, act with greater purpose, and seek ways to bring beauty and goodness into our worlds.

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



FRANCE PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

REGISTER ONLINE AT
TektonMinistries.org

ESTIMATED LAND-ONLY PRICE PER PERSON

\$4,295.00

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **\$120.00**
(estimated/pre-collected with final invoice)

ESTIMATED OPTIONS:

- For a single room: \$850

Final Payment Due

January 2026

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due 90 days prior to departure - after receiving the final invoice. All pilgrimage registrations must be made online through our website. Reservations made within 89 days of departure (or after the final invoices are sent) must be accompanied by payment in full. Any credit card payments other than the deposit will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of \$100.00 per person. Late payments may be subject to a late fee and/or possible removal from the pilgrimage. Pilgrimage prices are based upon a minimum number of 34 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for smaller group sizes.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing (email or letter). The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, \$300 will be charged. If canceled 90 - 61 days prior to departure, \$1000.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, \$2000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 30 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

Travel Documents: A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U.S. citizens. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for France. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

Hotels: Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

Air Transportation: Air travel is not provided.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage.

Travel Insurance: Each person is required to purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included in base price: International airfare, gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written

BASE RATE WILL INCLUDE:

- 9 nights' accommodation at 4 star hotels, including taxes and service charges
- Knowledgeable, inspiring, Catholic guides for Church tours
- Deluxe motor coach transportation to all venues outside of Paris
- Daily Mass at historical, stunning churches
- Entrance fees to museums, churches and other venues listed on itinerary
- Daily breakfast and main meal (including wine at the main meal)
- Hosted evening conversation and glass of wine or calvados per the itinerary

Rates do not include: airfare, airport transport, taxi, tips, optional side trips and travel insurance

statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

Trust Account Disclosure: California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"): George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than \$50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed \$15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a \$35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

Responsibility Clause: Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.



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