

ST. ADELAIDE'S PARISH
BRUGES, STRASBOURG & COLOGNE ITINERARY
MAY 20 – MAY 31, 2019

Day 1: Monday, May 20th ~ Boston - Brussels

Depart in the evening from Logan International Airport on your overnight flight to Brussels (via Frankfurt) on our Lufthansa flights to arrive on May 21st.

Day 2: Tuesday, May 21st ~ Arrive Brussels - Bruges

Upon arrival in Brussels, we will meet our tour escort, who will help us transfer to our hotel in Bruges. During our transfer we'll have a light orientation walking tour of this beautiful canal-lined city, followed by celebrating Mass at the Carmelite Fathers Church (pending confirmation). Then we'll check in to our hotel for dinner and overnight. (Dinner)

Your accommodations from 5/21 to 5/25:

Novotel Bruges Centrum

Katelijnestraat 65

8000 Bruges, Belgium

+32 5093 0802

Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c, safe

www.novotel.accorhotels.com/gb/hotel-1033-novotel-brugge-centrum/index.shtml

Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 2.00 Euros payable directly to hotel

Day 3: Wednesday, May 22nd ~ Bruges

Following breakfast at our hotel, we will continue touring beautiful Bruges. Among the attractions we'll see today are the English Convent, built by Sisters in the 17th century; the Beguinage (now a Benedictine convent, but originally built as a community for pious lay women to live in the 1240's); and the Basilica of the Precious Blood with its relic of Holy Blood collected by Joseph of Arimathea. We will also celebrate Mass in the stunning Church of Our Lady, the tallest structure in Bruges and the second-tallest brick tower in the world. Return to our hotel. Dinner is on your own. (Breakfast)

Day 4: Thursday, May 23rd ~ Louvain - Ghent

After breakfast, we drive southwest to Louvain, the capital of Belgium's Flemish Brabant province. Louvain is famous for its Catholic University, which is the oldest (1425 AD) Catholic University still in existence. On the secular side, Louvain is of note as the world headquarters of Anheuser-Busch InBev. We'll also visit nearby Scherpenheuvel, Belgium's most-frequented pilgrimage site, and we will celebrate Mass at the Basilica of Our Lady of Scherpenheuvel (pending confirmation). On the return route back to Bruges, we will stop for a tour of Ghent, famous to Americans for being the site of the signing of the treaty that ended the War of 1812, but a city so beautiful, parts of it are a UNESCO World Heritage site! Return to Bruges and our hotel. Dinner is on your own. (Breakfast)

Day 5: Friday, May 24th ~ Halle - Walcourt

Following breakfast at the hotel, we will begin our day's tour to Halle and Walcourt. In Halle, we will celebrate Mass at the Gothic Church of Our Lady (pending confirmation), also known as the Basilica of Saint Martin and a pilgrimage site going back to the 14th century due to the

miraculous Black Madonna image there. Continuing on to Walcourt, we'll visit Our Lady of Walcourt, with its own Black Madonna. This statue of the Holy Virgin was deemed miraculous after it survived a fire there in the year 1220. Return to your hotel in Bruges. Dinner is on your own. (Breakfast)

Day 6 : Saturday, May 25th ~ **Strasbourg**

After breakfast and hotel check-out, we must bid farewell to Bruges and Belgium as we head towards Strasbourg, France with a lunch stop enroute. After our arrival and hotel check-in at our hotel, we will celebrate Mass at the Strasbourg Cathedral at 3 pm. The evening is free and dinner is on your own. (Breakfast)

Your accommodations from 5/25 to 5/27:

Hotel Mercure Strasbourg Centre

Av. Marginal 49, 2766-90

Strasbourg, France

+351 21 464 8400

<https://www.accorhotel-1106-mercure-strasbourg-centre-hotel/index.shtml>

Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, swimming pool

Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 3.00 Euros payable directly to hotel

Day 7: Sunday, May 26th ~ **Strasbourg - Seltz**

After breakfast, we'll depart on a tour of the gorgeous Old City of Strasbourg. As a city of great historical and educational weight, it is unsurprising this is a sister city of Boston! After lunch (on our own) we'll follow the Rhine River northeast to the commune of Seltz, where we'll see the statue erected to St. Adelaide, who established a prominent abbey here in the late 900's. We'll celebrate Mass in Seltz (Fr Lewis will be notified when confirmation is received regarding church and time). Then we shall return to Strasbourg and the rest of the day is at leisure. (Breakfast)

Day 8: Monday, May 27th ~ **Strasbourg - Mannheim - Cologne**

After breakfast and hotel check out, we'll enjoy a short bus tour of the city before we head for Cologne, Germany. Along the way, we will stop in Mannheim, a gorgeous city famous for its innovation, business, and gridded streets. We'll have lunch (on our own) here with some free time before we continue on our way to Cologne. Check in to our hotel, and then we'll attend Mass at Koelner Dom at 5 pm. (Breakfast)

Your accommodations from 5/27 to 5/31:

Azimut City Center Hotel

Hansaring 97

50670 Cologne, Germany

+49 221 888760

Free Wi-Fi, hairdryer, a/c

Tourist / City Tax per person per day approx. 2.00 Euros payable directly to hotel

Day 9: Tuesday, May 28th ~ Cologne

After breakfast, we will depart on a full-day tour of this magnificent city by the Rhine. Among the sites we'll see are the twin-spined Cologne Cathedral for which the city is known, St. Andrew's Church in the Old Town, where St. Albertus Magnus (Albert the Great) is buried, and other churches as well. Mass will be celebrated during our tour (pending confirmation).
(Breakfast)

Day 10: Wednesday, May 29th ~ Kevelaer - Aachen

Breakfast at our hotel. Then, we are off to Kevelaer, the most popular Catholic pilgrimage site in northwestern Europe. Over 1 million pilgrims annually visit Kevelaer. There we will celebrate Mass at the Church of Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted (Beichtkapelle at Kapellplatz) at 11 AM. Then we'll continue on to Aachen, where we will visit the cathedral, built at the direction of Charlemagne and containing his remains. We'll also visit the Cathedral Treasury, which has held significant liturgical objects in its time, thought to have been part of the personal collection of Charlemagne himself. We'll have time for lunch on our own in Aachen, before we return to Cologne. Dinner is on our own. (Breakfast)

Day 11: Thursday, May 30th ~ Rhine River Cruise

After breakfast at the hotel, we're off for one of the true highlights of the tour - a cruise down a beautiful portion of the Rhine River from Rudesheim to Boppard. Explore the enchanting little towns and villages along the way, with a taped commentary giving you explanations of all the famous sights, like the Loreley Rock, the fortress of Stolzenfels, and Rheinfels. Stops are in Bingen, Bacharach, Oberwesel, St. Goar, St. Goarhausen, and Boppard. Lunch will be included today. Return to Cologne for our farewell dinner and overnight.
(Breakfast, lunch and dinner)

Day 12: Friday, May 31st ~ Frankfurt - Boston

After breakfast and hotel check out, we will be transferred to the airport in Frankfurt, where we will board our return Lufthansa flight to Boston. (Breakfast)

PLEASE NOTE: SCHEDULING IS ALWAYS SUBJECT TO CHANGE