



AN ORTHODOX PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY SITES OF PORTUGAL AND SPAIN WITH HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DANIEL (BRUM) SEPTEMBER 15-27, 2025

Day 1 — Monday, September 15, 2025 — Lisbon

Arrival in **Lisbon**. Transfer to the hotel. Rest. Welcome dinner. Orientation.

Day 2 — Tuesday, September 16, 2025 — Lisbon

Lisbon is one of the oldest cities in the world and the second-oldest European capital city. Julius Caesar made it a municipium. After the fall of the Roman Empire, it was ruled by a series of Germanic tribes. Later it was captured by the Moors in the 8th century. In 1147 Afonso Henriques conquered the city and founded the **Cathedral of Saint Mary Major** on the site of Lisbon's main mosque. At the same time, the **relics of St. Vincent of Saragossa**, the Protomartyr of Spain—a deacon of the Church of Saragossa who suffered under Diocletian—were transferred to the city. In 1255, Lisbon





1833. Around 150 years later, this prime example of the late Portuguese Gothic Manueline style was classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, as well as the nearby Tower of Belém.

Day 3 — Wednesday, September 17, 2025 — Sintra

Sintra is a town and municipality in the Greater Lisbon region of Portugal, located on the Portuguese Riviera. It is famous for its 19th-century Romanticist architecture, historic estates and villas, gardens, royal palaces, and castles, which resulted in the classification of the town as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Sintra's landmarks include the medieval **Castle of the Moors**, the romanticist **Pena National Palace**, and the Portuguese Renaissance **Sintra National Palace**. Pena castle stands on the top of a hill in the Sintra Mountains above the town of Sintra. It is a national monument and constitutes one of the major expressions of 19th-century Romanticism in the world. The palace is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the Seven Wonders of Portugal. Our next stop will be at **Cabo da Roca**, also known as Cape Roca, which forms the westernmost point of the Sintra Mountain Range, of mainland Portugal, and continental Europe. Nearby, there is also a **lighthouse** that was built in the 18th century, and entered operation in 1772.



Day 4 — Thursday, September 18, 2025 — Lisbon-Coimbra

Our first visit of the day will be to **Nazaré**, with an Ancient miraculous **statue of the Mother of God of Nazareth**, traditionally believed to be brought from the Middle East in Antiquity. According to tradition, the statue must have been venerated since the beginning of Christianity in Nazareth, in Palestine. In the fifth century, it was brought to Iberia, where it remained until 711, and when the Moorish Army defeated the Christians, the monks had to flee, taking the statue with them. The place where monks arrived became known as Nazare and eventually turned into a major pilgrim destination in Portugal. The **Alcobaça Monastery** was established in 1153 by the first Portuguese king, Afonso Henriques, and would develop a close association with the Portuguese monarchy throughout its seven-century-long history. Due to its association and sheer size, it became one of the most important medieval monasteries in Portugal. The monastery closed in 1834, during the dissolution of the monasteries in Portugal. Our last visit of the day will be to

the **Convent of Christ in Tomar**, Portugal. It was established in 1118 as a Templar stronghold, and when the order was dissolved in the 14th century the Portuguese branch was turned into the Knights of the Order of Christ. This later supported Portugal's maritime discoveries of the 15th century. The convent and castle complex are both historic and cultural monuments and were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1983.



Day 5 — Friday, September 19, 2025 — Coimbra

The town of **Coimbra** is well known from the time of the Romans, when it was known as a Roman settlement of Aeminium. It served as the capital of Portugal from 1131 until 1255, when the capital was moved to Lisbon. While the city was the political center of Portugal, it naturally became a major cultural center as well, and it was here that the first Portuguese university was moved in 1308. The **University of Coimbra** is the oldest academic institution in the Portuguese-speaking world. During the exploration of the historical center, we will attend a **mini-concert of Fado**, a type of Portuguese singing, that is renowned for its expressive and profoundly melancholic character. Later on, we will stop in **Porto**, one of the oldest European centers. Its center was proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1996. Among many other sites in the old center, we will visit the **Basilica**, famous and revered for its great collection of relics of the ancient saints of the Church. Overnight in **Coimbra**.



Day 6 — Saturday, September 20, 2025 — Braga

Braga is a city and a municipality, and a seat of the oldest Portuguese archdiocese. During the Roman Empire, then known as Bracara Augusta, the settlement was the capital of the Roman

province of Gallaecia and later would become the capital of the Kingdom of the Suebi that was one of the first territories to separate from the Roman Empire in the 5th century. The city's cathedral is a wondrous repository of the early Christian **relics**. The patron Saint of Braga is **Peter of Rates** (or of Braga), who is traditionally considered to be the first bishop of Braga between the years 45 and 60 AD, rests in the cathedral. Tradition says he was a Jew that Saint James the Great ordained to preach the glory of Christ. The same tradition holds that Peter of Rates was martyred while attempting to make converts to the Christian faith in northern Portugal.

Another patron of the city, **Saint Martin of Braga**, was an archbishop of Bracara Augusta in Gallaecia (now Braga), a missionary, a monastic founder, and an ecclesiastical author. According to his contemporary, the historian Gregory of Tours, Martin was "full of virtue" and due to his work on converting Arian Suebi to Chalcedonian Christianity, he is considered to be the "**Apostle of Suebi**". The **cathedral**, as the most important religious site in Iberia (before the founding of Santiago of Compostela and the reconquest of Toledo from Muslim hands), was an extremely





powerful institution. Among many other things, Braga hosts the oldest chapel in Portugal, the **Chapel of São Frutuoso**. The chapel was built by the Visigoths on top of a Roman temple to Asclepius and it was made to be a Royal Chapel. In 656 AD, it was consecrated by Saint Fructuosus to be used as his tomb.

Our last stop today will be at the **Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte**, one of Portugal's most important religious, architectural, and cultural landmarks. With a history that dates back to the 14th century, its current buildings and structures are from the 18th/beginning of the 19th centuries. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the sanctuary is set in the bosom of nature. Its hilltop position provides splendid panoramic views over the nearby city of Braga and the surrounding hills. The sanctuary's Baroque stairway is of particular

interest. It consists of 573 steps and 17 landings. It's designed to take the pilgrim on a deep spiritual journey in the steps of the Passion of Christ. The culmination is reaching the hilltop basilica's altarpiece with a full-size sculptural group depicting the Crucifixion. For the overnight stay, we will transfer to **Porto**.

Day 7 — Sunday, September 21, 2025 — Porto-Santiago de Compostela

We will start our day with the **Divine Liturgy** at the Orthodox Church of Porto. The community, which consists mainly of expats from the former Eastern bloc countries, rents one of the Catholic churches for their Liturgical needs. After Liturgy, some refreshments will be offered as well as a chance to interact with a local Orthodox priest. From here, we will proceed to one of the local wine cellars for some **tasting of the local Port wine**. After taking a **boat tour** on Douro River to get more taste of the city, but this time from the water. Later in the afternoon, we will start our transfer to Santiago de Compostela. As the transfer will take us



several hours, we will take a coffee break in **Ponte de Lima**. As one of the oldest towns in Portugal, Ponte de Lima was historically significant as a Roman settlement on the road from Braga to Santiago de Compostela and Lugo. Today, it is a significant stop on the Central Portuguese branch of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route. The main symbol of Ponte de Lima (which together with the river) names the town, is its **bridge**. In reality, it's a composite formed by two bridges: a medieval part, which is bigger, starting on the left bank of the river, for the length of two more arches. After that, starts the Roman part of the bridge; it is only five arches long, starting from the big arch already lying on the old, dry riverbed. After the breaks, we will continue our journey to **Santiago** where we will stay overnight.

Day 8 — Monday, September 22, 2025 — Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela—or simply, Compostela—is the capital of the autonomous community of Galicia, in northwestern Spain. The city has its origin in the shrine of Saint James the Great, now the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela, as the destination of the **Way of St. James**, a leading Catholic pilgrimage route since the 9th century. According to medieval legend, the remains of the apostle James, son of Zebedee, were brought to Galicia for burial, where they were lost. Eight hundred years later, the light of a bright star guided a shepherd, Pelagius the Hermit, who was watching his flock at night to the burial site in Santiago de Compostela. This site was originally called **Mount Libredon** and its physical topography



leads prevalent sea-borne winds to clear the cloud deck immediately overhead. The shepherd quickly reported his discovery to the bishop of Iria, Theodemir. The bishop declared that the remains were those of the apostle James and immediately notified King Alfonso II in Oviedo.



To honor St. James, the **cathedral** was built on the spot where his remains were said to have been found. By the mid-11th century, the site had already become a pan-European place of pilgrimage. Soon thereafter, Santiago would become a main Western Shrine and a pilgrim destination second only to Rome and Jerusalem. The excavations conducted in the cathedral during the 19th and 20th centuries uncovered a Roman martyrrium, around which grew a small cemetery in Roman and Suevi times which was later abandoned. This martyrrium proves the existence of an old Christian holy place on the site of the Cathedral. From Santiago, we will transfer to **Leon**. En route, time permitting, we will stop to visit the **Ponferrada Templar Castle**.

Day 9 — Tuesday, September 23 — Oviedo and Leon

In the morning we will transfer to **Oviedo**, the capital city of the Principality of Asturias in northern Spain. On our way, we will stop to visit the **church of St. Christine of Lena**, an Asturian pre-Romanesque church located in the Lena municipality, on an old Roman road that joined the lands of the plateau with Asturias. It was built around the year 850 and is one of the most interesting examples of pre-Romanesque Asturian art. The Kingdom of Asturias began in 720, with the Visigothic aristocrat Pelagius's (685–737) revolt against the Muslims who at the time were occupying most of the Iberian Peninsula. The





Moorish invasion that began in 711 had taken control of most of the peninsula, until the revolt in the northern mountains by Pelagius. The resulting Kingdom of Asturias, located in an economically poor region of Iberia, was largely ignored by the Muslims. In 720, the area where Oviedo is now located was still uninhabited. The rapid development of the city was hindered in the 11th century by the moving of the royal court to León. Thus, the main life of the former capital was linked to the relics preserved in its cathedral that were visiting it on their way to Santiago de Compostela.

The **Cathedral of San Salvador of Oviedo** today displays an array of architectural styles, from Pre-Romanesque to Baroque, including Romanesque, Gothic, and Renaissance parts. The cathedral was also called **Sancta Ovetensis** owing to the quantity and quality of relics contained in the Cámara Santa ("Holy Chamber"). The Holy Chamber is the only surviving portion of the ancient medieval complex. Bishop Pelagius relates that the Agate Box, (the chief reliquary of the chamber) a coffer made by the disciples of the

Apostles and containing the most precious relics of the Holy City, was taken from Jerusalem to Africa, and after residing in several locations was finally placed at Oviedo by Alfonso II. Among the most prized relics is the **Sudarium of Oviedo**, or Shroud of Oviedo, a bloodstained piece of cloth measuring c. 84 x 53 cm (33 x 21 inches) believed to be the cloth that was wrapped around the head of Jesus Christ after he died as described in John 20:6–7.

In the afternoon, we will return to **Leon**. Of greatest pilgrim importance here is the **Basílica de San Isidoro de León**. Its Christian roots can be traced back to the early 10th century when a monastery for Saint John the Baptist was erected on the grounds. In 1063, the basilica was rededicated to Saint Isidore of Seville. Isidore was the archbishop of Seville and the most celebrated academic and theologian of Visigothic Spain in the period preceding the Arab invasions. With the agreement of the



Muslim ruler of Seville, Isidore's relics were brought to Leon where they could be interred on Christian soil. Shortly after the rededication of the Cathedral, the Royal Pantheon was built by King Fernando the First and Queen Sancha. The mural decoration ordered by her daughter Urraca gained Pantheon the nickname of 'The Sistine Chapel of the Romanesque Art'.

Our last visit today will be to the **San Miguel de Escalada monastery** located on the outskirts of Leon. The building is a very fine example of Mozarabic art. The inscription that was lost since gave information about the church's consecration in 951 by Bishop Genadio, around the time of the founding of the Kingdom of León. It was constructed on the site of a Visigothic church probably dedicated to Saint Michael. Overnight in **Leon**.



Day 10 — Wednesday, September 24, 2025 — Burgos and S San Millán de la Cogolla

In the morning we will transfer to **Burgos**, founded in 884 by the second Count of Castile, Burgos soon became the leading city of the embryonic County of Castile. Construction on **Burgos' Gothic Cathedral** began in 1221 and spanned mainly from the 13th to 15th centuries. It has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Cathedral is the resting place for El Cid (the famous knight from Medieval Spain's history) and his wife Dona Jimena. In the afternoon we will visit the **monasteries** of **San Millán de Suso**



(6th century) and **San Millán de Yuso** (11th century), situated in the village of San Millán de la Cogolla. The names Suso and Yuso mean the "upper" and the "lower" in archaic Castilian, respectively. Suso is the older building and is believed to have been built on the site of a hermitage where Saint Aemilian lived. Perhaps Suso's major claim to fame is the place where phrases in the Spanish and Basque languages were written for the first time. UNESCO acknowledges the site "as the birthplace of the modern written and spoken Spanish language".



Saint Aemilian (+573) is an Iberic saint, widely revered throughout Spain, who lived during the age of Visigothic rule. According to his hagiography, written about a hundred years after the saint's death, Aemilian was born in Vergaja where he was a shepherd. At about the age of twenty, Aemilian had a religious experience, which led him to decide to dedicate himself to God. He sought the leadership of an experienced hermit and lived under his guidance for many years. After leaving his teacher, Aemilian lived as a hermit in the mountains. Eventually, he would be ordained as a priest but would rouse the opposition of his fellow priests because of his heavy distribution of alms or reputation for holiness or miracle-working. Then Aemilian returned to the wilderness, and a small

community of disciples gathered around his cell. He died at a venerable age, and his body was initially interred at his hermitage, but later transferred to a monastery built in memory of him. For the overnight stay, we will return to **Burgos**.

Day 11 — Thursday, September 25, 2025 — Madrid

In the morning, we will have a lengthy transfer to **Madrid**. Madrid is the capital and most populous city of Spain. The city has almost 3.4 million inhabitants and a metropolitan area population of approximately 6.7 million. It is the second-largest city in the European Union. While Madrid possesses modern infrastructure, it has preserved the look and feel of many of its historic neighborhoods and streets. Even though the site of modern-day Madrid has been occupied since prehistoric times, with the archeological remains from different





periods found throughout the city, the first historical document about the existence of an established settlement in Madrid dates from the Muslim age, in the second half of the 9th century. After the panoramic **bus tour** of the city, we will visit the most famous museum of the capital of Spain, the **Museo del Prado**. "...the Museo del Prado, an institution dating back 200 years and one whose origins and unique nature are largely due to the collecting tastes of Spain's 16th- and 17th-century monarchs. Collecting at that period differed from the present day. Rather than aiming at comprehensiveness, collectors aimed to assemble as many works as possible by their

favorite artists. This explains why the Prado has been described as a museum of painters not of paintings, given that its artists are represented in a superlative manner with, for example, the largest holdings of Bosch, Titian, El Greco, Rubens, Velázquez and Goya, some numbering more than 100 works. This type of instinctive collecting also resulted in gaps and explains why some periods are less well represented than others, either because they were not of interest, for example the Italian Primitives, or for historical reasons, as with 17th-century Dutch painting".

<https://www.museodelprado.es/en/the-collection>

After the tour, we will check in at the hotel in **Madrid**.



Day 12 — Friday, September 26, 2026 — Toledo

Toledo is primarily located on the right (North) bank of the Tagus in central Iberia, nestled in a bend of the river. It is known as the "**City of the Three Cultures**" for the cultural influences of Christians, Muslims, and Jews throughout its history. It was the capital, from 542 to 725 CE, of the Visigothic kingdom and was the venue for the **Councils of Toledo**. From the 5th century to the 7th century AD, ecclesiastical gatherings, variously counted, were held at Toledo. Most of them took place in the 7th century which led church historians to call that period the Age of the Councils. The city, which remained the seat of a powerful archdiocese for much of its history, has a **Gothic Cathedral**. Toledo also had a sizable Jewish community, and to date, two medieval Jewish **synagogues** remain in the city. Toledo was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986 for its extensive monumental and cultural heritage. Toledo is also famous as the home of Domenikos Theotokopoulos, more commonly known as **El Greco**. A native of Crete, Domenikos was born there in 1541, but before he turned thirty, he moved to Venice and then to Rome. In 1577, he came to Toledo and remained there till his death in 1614. El Greco has been characterized by modern scholars as an artist so individual that he belongs to no conventional school and is considered to be a precursor of both Expressionism and Cubism. In the afternoon, we will return to **Madrid** for a farewell dinner and an overnight stay.

Day 13 — Saturday, September 27, 2025

Departure from back home from **Madrid**.



TECHNICAL INFORMATION:

Price includes:

- Accommodations in 4-star hotels along the way
- All breakfasts and lunches or dinners (two meals daily)
- Private bus transportation along the way
- Group transfer from the airport in Lisbon and from the hotel to the airport in Madrid
- All admissions, according to the schedule
- Boat excursion
- Wine tasting
- Individual audio system aka "Whisper set"
- Professional English speaking [local] tour guides
- English speaking guide/escort during the entire tour

Price does not include:

- Personal health/accident insurance
- Air tickets
- Transportation to and from the airport if traveling separately from the group
- Private activities: transfers, optional tours, tickets to shows or additional museums.
- Some newly introduced fees that may occur in certain places
- Tips to bus drivers and tour guides (Minimal suggested amount per person is \$3 per day for bus drivers and \$5 for local tour guides. Your generosity will be always greatly appreciated)
- Anything that is not specifically mentioned in "Price includes"

Financial arrangements:

\$ per person, in double occupancy in a group of 25 participants; Single supplement: \$ extra. Please factor that the final price may fluctuate due to the actual number of participants or due to significant difference in exchange rate of local currency vs US dollar at the time of the final payment. In case of need for financial adjustment you'll be informed right away.

All payments should be made by check to: "Palomnik, LLC" and mailed to 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. Any returned checks are subject to \$25 fee. For payment with a credit card; domestic or international bank wires, please contact Fr. Ilya directly.

A deposit of \$800 is required when you sign up for the trip. The deposit is non-refundable, unless pilgrimage is cancelled by the organizers due to lack of participation or for some other valid or unforeseen circumstance. To avoid any money loss, emergency/travel cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: The deadline for signing up for the trip is June 1, 2025. The entire amount is due 91 days prior to departure, June 15, 2025. Failure to pay in full by June 15, 2025 without written

notice of explanation may lead to the cancellation of your participation, with no refund of any previously committed funds.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If you need to cancel after you signed up, penalty is:

- 25% of the tour cost, 91 to 61 days prior to the departure
- 50% of the tour cost, 61 to 31 days prior to the departure
- 100% of the tour cost 31 or fewer days prior to the departure

All cancellations must be done in writing as well and sent directly to agent/coordinator - Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky and must be received for reimbursement by the dates shown in the cancellation schedule. We also have to add that should cancellation or alteration of the program occur due to COVID and associated emergencies, civil disturbances, acts of terrorism, war, natural disaster, and other events of force majeure or acts of God (including threat or fear of same), refunds will be made only to the extent that they are recoverable, and that such cancellation or alteration may result in the total loss of funds paid by participants. It is assumed each participant has reviewed the same with respect to their own comfort level of risk and personal safety. A decision to withdraw from the trip for these reasons or any others will be bound by the same terms of cancellation.

ALTERATIONS TO ITINERARY:

Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky reserves the right to alter, modify or withdraw the itinerary if air schedules and/or events beyond his control deem it necessary. In the event it becomes necessary for the comfort or well-being of the travelers to alter or modify the itinerary or arrangements, such alterations may be made without penalty to the tour operator and are not grounds for cancellation with refund. Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky assumes no responsibility over any consequences as a result of any participant deviating from the group tour. Because of the difference in language and customs, it is expected that the traveler will follow the directions of the Tour Director at all times. Tour Director reserves the right to restrict a person's participation in the group's activities, including exclusion from the group, when, in the opinion of the Director, such action is necessary.

REQUIRED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS:

A passport with validity for at least six months beyond end of stay

IT IS STRONGLY SUGGESTED THAT YOU:

- Obtain insurance covering medical needs and coverage of personal property, possible Covid quarantine and/or hospitalization and treatment

- Be aware that financial coverage for all emergency medical and other emergency needs (including those related to COVID hospitalization, treatment, or quarantine) will be your sole responsibility. We will provide all possible logistical and personal assistance, but the financial aspect is your responsibility.

- Act in a manner consistent with the surrounding environment

- Make arrangements to have access to sufficient funds to cover personal needs and unexpected events

- Be aware that the places that we will be visiting may not have the same amenities that you are accustomed to. Medical facilities in some areas may be limited.

This agreement becomes effective upon acceptance into the tour by Fr. Ilya Gotlinsky

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REGISTRATION FORM:

HOLY SITES OF PORTUGAL AND SPAIN WITH ARCHBISHOP DANIEL
DATES: SEPTEMBER 15 – 27, 2025

To register please complete this registration form and return it along with your deposit check for \$800.00 made to PALOMNIK, LLC to: 1613 Campus Drive, Vestal, NY 13850. Please write "Portugal and Spain 2025" on the memo line.

Full Name (as per passport):

Date of Birth (day/month/year):

Passport #

Passport expiration date (day/month/year):

Address:

City, State, Zip/Postal Code

Home phone:

Alt. phone and Email:

Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone, Relation):

Medical restrictions:

Dietary restrictions:

Would you prefer single accommodations at additional costs specified in the itinerary?

Please let us know if there is anything else that we should know in order to make your travel experience more comfortable and pleasant:

Your signature below confirms that you have read the itinerary and agree to abide by Terms and Conditions that accompany the itinerary.

NAME/SIGNITURE:

DATE: