

PILGRIMAGE IN PROVENCE:
**THE WAY OF
MARY MAGDALENE**

Stephen J. Binz, Pilgrimage Leader

*with Jennifer Ristine, CRC, author
and Fr. Louis Richard, chaplain*

10 Days
July 18-27, 2022



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Pilgrimage Leader: Stephen J. Binz

Stephen Binz is a biblical scholar and award-winning author of over fifty books. As a popular speaker, he offers keynotes, seminars, and workshops internationally as well as education for clergy and pastoral leaders.

Following graduate degrees at the Gregorian University and the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and Jerusalem, he has developed Bible studies in the church for three decades and has offered numerous study trips and pilgrimages to sacred places. His books have earned top awards from the Catholic Press Association and the Association of Catholic Publishers.

Stephen and his wife Pamela live in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. To contact him and learn more about his publications, speaking events, and pilgrimages, visit www.Bridge-B.com.

Dear Pilgrims,

I am thrilled to offer this new and unique journey to southern France, following in the missionary path of Mary Magdalene. A long tradition holds that Mary Magdalene was exiled from Palestine a decade or so after the life of Jesus and reached sanctuary in Provence, where she evangelized the region, bringing it to faith in Jesus Christ. The crypt that holds her relics in the Basilica of Saint Mary Magdalene has been called the third most important tomb in Christianity.

I have planned this pilgrimage to coincide with the new Feast of St. Mary Magdalene, elevated from a memorial to a feast of the church by Pope Francis. Referring to her traditional title as “Apostle to the Apostles” the Pope acclaimed her as the first to witness Christ’s resurrection and as a “true and authentic evangelizer.” We will join the people of Saint Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume to celebrate the Feast of Mary Magdalene in the basilica and in street processions.

The decision to construct what is now the largest Gothic building in Provence was made by Charles II of Anjou in 1279 after her sarcophagus was discovered at the site. Saint-Maximin became one of the most important pilgrimage sites in Europe along with the cave of Sainte-Baume, where Mary Magdalene lived in prayer during the last thirty years of her life. A pilgrimage route naturally developed from Saint Maximin to the Sainte Baume mountains, a route walked by more than forty monarchs from Saint Louis to Louis XIV, and known as the “route of Kings.”

We will travel to these sites and many more of the most beautiful and sacred sites of Provence. Our itinerary focuses on the many places associated with Mary Magdalene and several other gospel figures who proclaimed the gospel here, including St. Lazarus and St. Martha.

I am pleased that we will be joined by **Jennifer Ristine**, a consecrated woman since 1997 with Regnum Christi. She was a professor at Mater Ecclesiae College and most recently served as Director of the Magdalena Institute and Visitors’ Center Coordinator in Magdala, Israel. She is the author of *Mary Magdalene: Insights from Ancient Magdala*, which I highly recommend for your reading. I am also happy that **Fr. Louis Richard** will join us to serve as chaplain, offering the Mass with us at the sacred site throughout our journey. He is the revered pastor of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Abbeville, Louisiana.

July is peak season and southern France is pricy, so the cost of our pilgrimage is a bit higher than some I offer. But it is the time when the region’s fields are bursting with color and fragrance, as perfumed violet lavender and dazzling sunflowers are in full bloom. Be assured that we will share an ideal combination of sightseeing, learning, quiet reflection, prayer, and certainly fun. We will return to only one hotel throughout all our days of travel – a comfortable converted monastery, right next door to the Basilica of St. Mary Magdalene. I have used Select International as my travel company for many years and find their service outstanding. I have never had any concerns about safety, accommodations, or amenities in all my years of leading tours.

In preparation for this pilgrimage or in your discernment, I would recommend a book by **Fr. Sean Davidson**, *Saint Mary Magdalene: Prophetess of Eucharistic Love*, to learn more about the traditions and spirituality of these places. If you would like to join us, I suggest sending your registration and deposit soon, as this will most probably fill quickly. I sure hope you can be part of this grace-filled pilgrimage.

In the Joy of the Gospel,
Stephen J. Binz

WHAT'S THE COST?

Land and Air
\$4995.00

Land Only
\$3895.00

Solo Travel
Additional Price
\$895.00

Prices are valid only if the deposit is received no later April 6, 2022

Final payment due May 18, 2022



This active program covers a good amount of ground each day.

You need to be able to walk for 60 minutes

straight and on uneven surfaces.

Some stairs will be encountered.

ITINERARY

✝ **July 18, Monday, DAY 1: Depart USA ON AN OVERNIGHT FLIGHT TO MARSEILLE**
Dinner provided on the flight as well as breakfast the next morning.

✝ **July 19, Tuesday, DAY 2: MARSEILLE – SAINT MAXIMIN-LA-SAINTE-BAUME**

We arrive at the Marseille airport and are welcomed by our English-speaking Select International guide. Time permitting, we will travel to Marseille, stopping at Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde, with a panoramic view of the Bay of Marseille and the Mediterranean beyond. After Mary Magdalene and her companions landed in France, she traveled with her brother Lazarus to Marseille, where he became its first bishop. We visit the Cathedral of Saint Mary Major, which enshrines the skull of St. Lazarus, the first bishop. We transfer to Saint Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume and settle into our hotel. The famous basilica enshrining the tomb of Mary Magdalene is nearby. We will close our day with Mass. Dinner at the hotel. (D.)

✝ **July 20, Wednesday, DAY 3: SAINTE-MARIES-DE-LA-MER**

We travel to the fishing village of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer, where the Rhône River meets the Mediterranean Sea. Here Mary Magdalene and her companions landed after being exiled from Palestine. Two of Mary Magdalene's companions on the boat were with her at Christ's empty tomb, Saint Mary Salome (the wife of Zebedee and mother of James and John) and Saint Mary Jacobe (the mother of the apostle James the Less). We will visit the old fortress church, Church of Notre-Dame-de-la-Mer, where the relics of these two Marys are enshrined and celebrate Mass there. In the village, we view the large Camargue Cross, representing faith, hope, and love, and honoring the guardians who watch over the white Camargue Horses that roam free in the marshland. After lunch, we take a relaxing boat ride up the Camargue to see the wildlife—Camargue horses and bulls who roam free, and a wide variety of beautiful birds, including the pink flamingo. After taking a little time for shopping, we return to our hotel for dinner in St Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume. (B. D.)

✝ **July 21, Thursday, DAY 4: CANNES – ILE DE LERINS – SAINT-MAXIMIN**

Following breakfast at the hotel, we drive to Cannes, city of the famous film festival on the Côte d'Azur. We take a boat ride to the Island of Saint Honorat to explore the Cistercian Abbey of Lérins. Founded in the 5th century by Saint Honorat, it became one of the greatest centers of western monasticism. Many of the bishops and saints of France spent time here, including Saint Patrick, before going to evangelize Ireland. We will meet with a brother of the community for Lectio Divina, celebrate Mass, and then enjoy wine tasting and lunch at a restaurant on the island. In the afternoon, we return to Cannes with time at leisure to explore the city before returning to Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume for dinner and an overnight. (B. L. D.)

✝ **July 22, Friday, DAY 5: A SAINTE-BAUME & ST. MAXIMIN**

On this Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene, after breakfast, we'll drive to the hôtellerie for the Feast Day Procession. The Dominicans will carry the tibia of Saint Mary Magdalene in the reliquary up to the Cave, where Mary Magdalene spent the last thirty years of her life. Here we will attend the 11:00 am Feast Day Mass. After Mass, we will climb the stairs to the Rock of Penitence, where Mary Magdalene prayed and was raised up by angels, and we'll leave our petitions before the statue of the saint. Afterward, we'll share a picnic lunch, which is included. After a time of prayer at the sanctuary, which has been guarded by the Dominicans since 1295, we transfer back to St Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume. There we will be joined by all the people in the town who come out for the festivities. The Association Santo Madaleno is a group of men and women whose purpose is to defend and uphold the traditions of Provence and the cult of Saint Mary Magdalene. The women dress in the traditional Provençal dress, and the men dress as guardians or local cowboys. The eight guardians carry the golden reliquary, the skull of Saint Mary Magdalene, through the streets of the town. We end the day with dinner and overnight at our hotel. (B. L. D.)

✝ **July 23, Saturday, DAY 6: TARASCON – ARLES**

After breakfast, we drive through the beautiful countryside of Provence to the extreme west of the Bouches-du-Rhône department to Tarascon, where we visit Collégiale Royale Sainte-Marthe, the collegiate church that houses the relics of Saint Martha, the sister of Mary and Lazarus. We will go down to the crypt, believed to be the house where she lived, where her remains were found in 1187. We'll see beautiful paintings with scenes of Martha's life, reflect on the gospel scenes, and celebrate Mass. Across the street from Château de Roi René (King René's Castle), we'll then see the statue of La Tarasque, the legendary dragon that hid in the river and terrorized the people. Saint Martha charmed the beast with hymns, prayers, and holy water, then brought the tamed Tarasque to the city. The people, terrified by the monster, attacked it, but the monster offered no resistance and died there. Martha then preached to

the people and converted many of them to Christianity. Sorry for what they had done to the tamed monster, the newly Christianized townspeople changed the town's name to Tarascon. We will see some beautiful sunflower fields near Tarascon that inspired Vincent van Gogh to paint "Sunflowers" (1888). We drive south to Arles, where we will have lunch on our own at a lovely restaurant, Jardin Des Arts. Later we'll walk by a restaurant Vincent van Gogh painted when he lived in Arles from 1888-89, which he called "Café de la Nuit." The restaurant still exists in the condition it was then, but it is renamed Café Van Gogh. Then we will walk to the Church of St Trophime on the Place de la Republique. It was built between the 12th century and the 15th century and is in the Romanesque architectural tradition. The church was built upon the site of the 5th-century basilica of Arles named for St Stephen, the first Christian martyr. In 245 AD, Pope Fabian sent out seven bishops from Rome to Gaul to preach the gospel: Gaius to Tours, Trophimus to Arles, Paul to Narbonne, Saturninus to Toulouse, Denis to Paris, Austromoine to Clermont, and Martial to Limoges. We will see many relics in the Church of St Trophime. Then we'll drive back to St Maximin for dinner in a local restaurant. (B. D.)

✚ July 24, Sunday, DAY 7: APT – SAINT-MAXIMIN-LA-SAINTE-BAUME

After breakfast at the hotel, we celebrate Sunday Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Magdalene. We then drive to Apt. The Cathedrale Sainte-Anne in Apt houses the remains of Saint Anne, the Mother of the Virgin Mary. The ancient tradition holds that the relics of Saint Anne were brought to Gaul by the same vessel which carried Lazarus, Martha, and Mary Magdalene. They carried Sainte Anne's precious remains for safekeeping to the city of Apta Julia, which today is the city of Apt. In those stormy days of persecution, it was necessary to hide the relics of the martyrs and saints to preserve them from destruction. The remains of Saint Anne were hidden underground. Then St. Auspicious, the first bishop of Apta Julia, who died in 118, took further precautions to guard this holy treasure and buried her relics in a subterranean chapel. We will learn how the relics were miraculously discovered in 792 by Charlemagne with the help of a deaf and dumb boy. Today, the beautiful crypt is below the main altar in the cathedral. Returning to Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume, we will have an encounter with Fr. Florian Racine, rector of the basilica, or one of the Missionaries of the Most Holy Eucharist. We celebrate vespers in the basilica at 4:00 pm followed by a procession in the street. Dinner and overnight in Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume. (B. D.)

✚ July 25, Monday, DAY 8: SAINT-MAXIMIN – GORDES – AVIGNON

After breakfast, we travel to the Abbey of Sénanque, located in the heart of Provence, in a natural setting of lavender and extraordinary beauty. One of the purest examples of early Cistercian architecture, the abbey is still in use by the community of Cistercian monks. We will tour the abbey church, the cloister, the heating room, the chapter room, and celebrate Mass. The Cistercians organize their day around three pillars: the divine office, lectio divina, and manual labor. The monks of Sénanque make honey, essential oils, jams, beauty products, and numerous products derived from lavender are sold at the abbey's store. After lunch on our own in the wonderful village of Gordes, we travel to Avignon for a visit to the famous Papal Palace, listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Avignon became the seat of the papacy between 1309 and 1423 when the popes returned to Rome. Begun in 1335, the palace is the largest Gothic construction of the middle ages. Two popes were responsible for directing the construction of this Christian fortress, with its ramparts, keep moats, and magnificent chapel. Six conclaves were held here, ending in the elections of Benedict XII, Clement VI, Innocent VI, Urban V, Gregory XI, and Benedict XIII. We then transfer back to Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume for dinner and overnight. (B. D.)

✚ July 26, Tuesday, DAY 9: AIX-EN-PROVENCE

After breakfast at our hotel, we drive to Aix-en-Provence and visit the Cathédrale Saint Sauveur, where Mary Magdalene and Saint Maximin (the first bishop of Aix) first dedicated a chapel to the Holy Savior. Remains of the floor of this chapel are inside the cathedral. The church houses relics and important paintings, including The Burning Bush by Nicholas Froment, a masterpiece of the 15th century. We will also see the 6th-century baptistery and cloister, then celebrate Mass. We will walk through this lovely town, passing by the many fountains and outdoor markets, where we will shop for specialty items from the area. You might choose to have lunch at Les Deux Garçons. Some of the many famous people who have dined here include Winston Churchill, Pablo Picasso, Edith Piaf, and Paul Cézanne. We'll then walk to the Chapel of the Oblates, where Saint Eugène de Mazenod founded the Missionaries of Provence (1826), which was later called the Congregation of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Described as having "a heart as big as the world," he later became the Bishop of Marseille. After strolling around Aix-en-Provence, we'll return to St Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume for a farewell dinner in a local restaurant and overnight. (B. Special dinner)

✚ July 27, Wednesday, DAY 10: RETURN TO USA

Transfer to the airport in the morning for a flight back home, holding precious memories and renewed in the joy of the gospel. (B.)

YOUR COMPREHENSIVE TOUR INCLUDES

- Round trip airfare from Newark or JFK to Marseilles
- Airline surcharges, fuel and airport taxes are subject to change until the time of ticketing
- Accommodations in three-star hotels
- Open hot buffet breakfast daily
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- Two lunches
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- Confirmation of Daily Mass
- Tips and gratuities for the guides, drivers and wait staff

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE

- Personal expenses
- Travel protection - optional and highly encouraged
- Medical Insurance
- Any items not explicitly mentioned in the listed inclusions
- Beverages at meals unless otherwise noted
- Church donations

BAGGAGE CHARGES NOT INCLUDED IN TRIP COST

- Any airline baggage charges.
- Baggage handling at train stations, airports, and hotels in excess of one suitcase per person.
- Any charges incurred due to excessive luggage including the cost of an additional baggage vehicle or portage charges.

Deposits and final payment: A deposit of \$500.00 per person by check should accompany the registration form along with your optional travel protection payment, and a copy of your passport picture page by **April 6, 2022**. Final payment is due by **May 18, 2022**. A late payment fee of \$100 will be charged per person for all payments received after the final payment date. Please mail your payment to: **Select International Tours, 85 Park Ave., Flemington, NJ 08822 Attn: Rebecca Stoker, 800-842-4842, rebecca@select-intl.com.**

Your passport must be valid through January 27, 2022. Reservations will not be processed until we have passport copies. Prices quoted are based on cash payments. Cash prices \$4,995.00 for the complete package, \$3,895.00 land only (air not included), \$895.00 solo traveler (in room by yourself). Credit card payments are: \$5,145.00 for the complete package, \$4,012.00 for land only, \$1,025.00 single supplement.

Pilgrimage prices: Prices are based on minimum 20 passengers. Prices may be adjusted in the event of fewer than 20 passengers, changes in currency conversion rates, or amendments in local government taxes and/or fuel surcharges. Prices are in US dollars. For European travel an exchange rate of US \$1.16 per Euro is assumed.

Solo Travel: A limited number of single rooms are available. Prices are based on two people per room. We do not guarantee roommates but will do our best to connect you with a someone willing to share.

Land Only Option: Land only services start and end at the hotels and do not include any airfare. You are welcome to transfer from the airport with the group if you arrive at the same time, otherwise, transfers are not included.

Tour Cancellation Policy: A \$350.00 non-refundable fee will be assessed if the reservation is canceled from the date of booking until 90 days prior to departure. A \$500.00 non-refundable fee will be assessed if the reservation is canceled between 90 and 60 days prior to departure. Within 60 days of departure all payments are non-refundable regardless of reason for cancellations. All airline tickets are non-refundable once issued. All cancellations must be in writing. Unused portions of the trip are not refundable. If a roommate cancels, the cost of a solo supplement will be added to your invoice. You may be eligible for a refund through your travel protection. Refer to the U.S. Policy by State on our website.

Trip Cancellation Protection: We strongly encourage you to purchase a **Travel Protection Plan**, for the protection of your travel investment. Please consider purchasing this plan at the time of initial deposit in order to be covered for pre-existing conditions. Visit our website, www.selectinternationaltours.com, for details and costs, per person, for the Group Deluxe and Cancel for Any Reason (CFAR) plans. Please note that CFAR is not available in NY State. The plans contain insurance benefits underwritten by the United States Fire Insurance Company. The plans also contain non-insurance Travel Assistance Services that are provided by an independent organization.

Airline, seating and special requests: To best accommodate our pilgrims, we often utilize Group Air Reservations. These allow more predictable transfer and tour schedules. However, when booking Group Air, the airline (not Select International Tours) controls seating assignments. If you require very specific seats, we suggest that you book your own airfare

and take advantage of our "Land Only" options. You may communicate directly with the airline to request seating changes, provide mileage program information, or change passenger contact information once you receive ticket numbers—approximately three (3) weeks prior to departure. We work with instant purchase airline tickets and or group rates. If you switch from air and land to land only within 90 days from departure you will be charged a \$100 service fee in addition to any airline charges. All special needs and requests due to medical or dietary restrictions must be requested in writing at least 60 days prior to departure. Business class and Premium Coach seats are available upon written request; as are add-ons from your hometown airport. If you require very specific airlines or schedules, we suggest that you book your own airfare and take advantage of our "Land Only" options.

Walking: Our trips require daily walking, sometimes up or down slopes, steps, and uneven terrain. We recommend preparing oneself, by walking before the trip. Anyone needing assistance is required to be accompanied by a qualified and physically-able travel companion. We are not responsible for any medical condition that occurs prior, during or after the trip.

Safety Procedures: Select International Tours has undertaken a reasonable inquiry, with all the suppliers (including airlines, hotels, bus companies and other service providers) used on our trips to ensure they have instigated the best available procedures regarding the pandemic-protective policies advised by local government and health authorities. The client understands and agrees that the supplier(s) may not apply those policies as diligently as the policies suggest. In addition even if the supplier makes a good faith effort to enforce its good practices, some travelers may simply refuse to cooperate. Therefore the client agrees not to hold Select International Tours or group leaders responsible should they or anyone on the trip contract COVID-19 or any other illness during or after the trip.

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Shipping & Handling: \$15.00—not included in package price—will be added to each invoice. Your invoice will confirm the trip registration.

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REGISTRATION/CONSENT FORM:

Pilgrimage in Provence: The Way of Mary Magdalene Stephen J. Binz, Pilgrimage Leader and Jennifer Ristine, CRC, author, and Fr. Louis Richard, chaplain July 18-27, 2022

Please complete this form and mail it to Select International Tours, along with your deposit, travel protection payment (if purchasing), and a copy of your passport picture page.



Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Cell/Home Phone: _____ Contact Cell for Airline While Traveling: _____

Email Address: _____ Land only : _____ Need help with flights from _____

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(Starts/ends at hotel, no airfare)

Updates about your trip will be sent by email only. Please be sure that your settings allow for electronic communication originating from rebecca@select-intl.com

Room: (check one) Single (1 Bed) _____ Double (1 Bed, 2 People) _____ Twin (2 Beds, 2 People) _____ Triple (3 Beds) _____

Name of Roomate(s): _____ If single: Match me with a roommate Solo (in room by myself)

Emergency Contact (Name and Phone): _____

Enclosed is a check/money order in the amount of \$ _____ for my initial deposit.

I am purchasing travel protection: _____ Yes _____ No, I decline. Enclosed is \$ _____

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Signature : _____ Date: _____

Not responsible for changes in group air.