

# *The Unlimited Travel Knowledge* **TOURISTICA** INTERNATIONAL

**RÉCIT HISTORIQUE**

## **Histoire de la Ville Phénicienne SAINT-JEAN D'ACRE**

PAGE 24

**ALL - INCLUSIVE**

## **ANTALYA** **Shelter of Adriano and Saint Nicolas**

PAGE 72

N° 76 - JUIN / JUNE 2015

LA SÉRIE TÉLÉVISÉE EST-ELLE VRAIMENT UN SOUS-CINÉMA ? 4 ÉDITO : FOIRE UNIVERSELLE DE MILAN 18  
LES INVENTEURS DE L'ALPHABET 20 AUX QUATRE VENTS 34 LE PORTUGAL À MONTRÉAL 38 LE BASEBALL ET  
LA RÉP. DOMINICAINE 48 DÉGUSTATION DE VINS D'ITALIE 54 GAUGUIN À BÂLE 60 JANINE SUTTO "CITOYENNE  
D'HONNEUR" 62 FITCUBA CAYO COCO 92 EXPEDITION TO ANNAPURNA 96 GLOBAL NEWS 104 FOOD & TRAVEL 112  
JOURNEY TO BERLIN 124 KINGS OF EGYPT IN MONTREAL 130 LAST MINUTE NEWS 144 OFFRES D'EMPLOI 148  
LOURDES AND ITS SERROUNDING OFFERS ATTRACTIONS FOR TRAVELERS 152

**The formula “Ave M  
bus, takes you to n**

**CULTURAL**

**“Maria” by train and  
many destinations !**



**ENRIQUE SANCHO**

**T O U R I S M**

## FIVE PROPOSALS TO ENJOY TRAVELLING... WITHOUT TOUCHING THE *LOURDES* SHRINE

The city and its surrounding area offers numerous attractions for all travelers



**A**lmost everyone knows that Lourdes is one of the main centers of pilgrimage in the world, more than 6 million people visit each year, mostly attracted by the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette Soubirous over 150 years ago, which has miraculous waters and is a magical place,

regardless of the beliefs of each person, is an intimate and enriching personal experience. But even for those who do not intend to set foot in the sanctuaries, Lourdes and its surroundings have much to offer.

These are five proposals to enjoy this place and have fun... heavenly.





## 1

## THE FORT NEVER CONQUERED

In the first vision of Lourdes stands out above the wide valley, a peak topped by a castle accused profiles. Lourdes is the strength of an ancient medieval enclosure and was never conquered, not even by the forces of Charlemagne, and is declared a historic monument and museum in France. Lair of mercenaries, then actual prison and finally garnish. From there, offers an exceptional view of the city, sanctuaries and the Pyrenees. Its walls also host a botanical garden at the foot of the tower of the fourteenth century and the Pyrenean Museum, with important collections on the history of the French

and *Spanish Pyrenees*: ceramics and furniture of the eighteenth century a shepherd's hut, traditional customs, miniatures...

Although the views from here are wonderful, worth the climb a little more and do it easily using a centenarian and charming funicular opened in 1900 leading to the Pic du Jer, a thousand feet in just a few minutes. Dominating the city, offers a unique viewpoint with stunning 360° view over the city, the valley of Argeles-Gazost and the Pyrenean peaks. Here, one is in harmony with nature, as a return to origins, where time seems to have stopped... *The Pic du Jer* overlooking the town is distinctive for its large cross illuminated at night. At the summit, walk a path leads to the observatory. From there you can see, about 3 miles from the city center, a large glacial lake of over 50 hectares extending through a high-purity nature and the golf course with 18 holes, an option that supplements the extensive sports possibilities Lourdes and its surroundings.

## 2

## PONT D'ESPAGNE, ENTRANCE TO THE NATIONAL PARK OF THE PYRENEES

Less than an hour from Lourdes, be prepared to live emotions that only nature can bring. Near **Cauterets**, a small mountain town with charm and animation, known for its hot springs, its ski slopes and delicious berlingots, the Pont d'Espagne and its waterfalls concentrate all the strength and romanticism of the Pyrenean mountains. In the 50s, Cauterets refused to allow its valleys lakes were dammed for hydroelectric power. Since then, in the mountains overlooking the city the water flows freely among the pines, in a succession of waterfalls and through crevices in the rocks caused by water, a show that can be seen from the road to Pont d'Espagne, with a special stop at the waterfalls of Lutour and Ceriset. By car or on foot,

following the path of the waterfalls, you arrive immediately to Pont d'Espagne, gate of the Pyrenees National Park, the oldest and most visited national parks in France, created in 1967. This park extends over 100 km from east to west, including within its boundaries six senior valleys border with Spain. Its existence helps to preserve exceptional biodiversity.

The Pont d'Espagne, Lake Gaube with upstream, proposes simple contemplation of the landscape, walking, hiking, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing ride ... that will appeal to young and old. For easier access, have carried out refurbishment, always with the greatest respect for the environment, including parking, reception building, shuttles, catering establishments ... A road signposted can admire from a gateway the famous Pont d'Espagne, dominating the throats why rush rushing torrents. Then Gaube chairlift leads smoothly to the vicinity of the lake. After a short course of 15 minutes flat, the lake appears with all the splendor of its waters. In its shore is the old inn, which in the nineteenth century made a stop hikers. Exalted by French romantics and by Victor Hugo, Lake Gaube is dominated by the impressive silhouette of the Vignemale. With its 3298 meters above sea level, is the highest peak in the French Pyrenees.





## 3

## PARC ANIMALIER DES PYRÉNÉES

158

Originally called "Colline aux Marmottes" this park, fifteen kilometers from Lourdes is a magical place that offers a new way of looking at nature. In it, animals and birds of this region -osos, wolves, lynx, marmots, otters, squirrels, four types of vultures ...- spacious living very close to the public, some of them even can be given eating in hand, especially the real protagonists, marmots. The park was created in 1999, but tries to reinvent itself every year with new

attractions and initiatives. In 2008, took the leap with a considerable expansion of the Park and its collections of species. Today, the park covers 14 acres in the heart of the Pyrenees. In 2011 the "Hut Trapper", an unusual concept hill cabin that allows literally sleep in the middle of a pack of wolves was created. Who rented this cabin have inside everything you need to spend the day and night with local produce ready to eat, butter, milk, coffee, jams and drinks in the fridge. The cottage sleeps up to four people. The cost per night for two people is 280 euros. In 2012, the "Conservation of the Pyrenees" Foundation was created, in which national projects carried out in the conservation of biodiversity in the Pyrenees. Browse the Park is a unique experience for families, children enjoy almost coexisting with numerous animals, observing their environment, their movements and their games.

## 4

## THE GREENWAY OF THE GAVE RIVER

On leaving the Animal Park one finds the call Greenway of Gaves, a stretch to half the total layout of the road leading along a flat and full of great beauty to the center of Lourdes track. Walk, bike or rollerblade you discover one of the most beautiful valleys of the Pyrenees. Throughout this journey of 26 kilometers in total there are signs that inform about the villages we passed and the services they offer. The Greenway of Gaves, which literally means

mountain streams, through the heart of the Pyrenean country from Lourdes to Cauterets, offering a range of discoveries of great wealth: medieval tower, nature reserve, picks, banks of the Gave de Pau, castle-fortress ... In the Greenway of the Gaves, you can discover the strong identity of its traditions and landscapes. One of the sections more tractive is crossing the structure of metallic iron cage bridge 56 meters long and 4.55 meters wide. It was created in 1884 to replace the first structure built above. It is usually a good place to take a break on the road and admire the scenery, where the meadows with herds of cows and horses abound, while the river continues its rapid channel and the background the peaks retain snow. An idyllic place. The Greenway of Gaves was the first French greenway obtain national certification "Tourism and Disability" 3 disabilities: motor, mental and hearing disabilities.





## 5

## PIC DU MIDI, BEYOND THE COL DU TOURMALET

With its 2877 meters of altitude the Pic du Midi de Bigorre, one of the most majestic peaks of the Hautes-Pyrénées, it offers accessible to everyone, without the effort usually make the riders of the Tour de France in which he is probably the hardest stage of the tour. The Pic du Midi is renowned for the beauty of its landscape and its astronomical observatory. It is easily reached by car or bus from Lourdes and accessed the summit, saving the thousand meters in just 15 minutes by cable car cabin. Up there, the purity and transparency of air and light are the secret of a place for a long time reserved for scientists. Conditioning 750 m<sup>2</sup> of panoramic terraces were, with a view that stretches 300 km from peaks of the Pyrenees, stretching from the Mediterranean to the Atlantic, and on the plateaus of the Great Southwest. The splendor of the landscapes earned him the Pic du Midi be declared National Natural Park in 2003.

At the top, next to the observatory was installed a modern and very explicit museum where the history of the place and the extraordinary efforts had to be made is discovered. It all began in the late nineteenth century, with a meteorological observatory. Since then, the Pic du Midi is an incredible epic, attracting the passionate, scholars and curious, porters, builders and scholars eager to better understand the universe. The exceptional qualities of the site allow for observations and measurements that explain the evolution of the Earth. This human adventure, which continues today, is disclosed in the highest museum space in Europe. The magic of the place continues into the night. Throughout the year, on the occasion of the celebration of evening events, the Pic du Midi is open for "Starry Nights" with an entertainment program on astronomy. Even more special and magical, the Pic du Midi also offers the 'Nights at the Summit ". Upon reservation, 19 privileged can sleep on this emblematic summit and share unforgettable moments under the stars.

And if many excursions whet the appetite, do not worry because you are in the right place. Lourdes and surrounding area offers numerous restaurants to recuperate. A good idea is to test the Garbure, a typical traditional soup, the Pyrenees, mainly composed of Tarbes beans, green cabbage, vegetables and confit of goose or duck, which is set to simmer. It is served with a slice of bread and a glass of Madiran.

AND... 6

## THE SHRINES, CLEAR

Although, as we see, there are many temptations in Lourdes, would be unforgivable not to visit, however brief want, to shrines, going to encounter with Bernadette and her story of passion. Here it is found that this place is magical and miraculous, a mystical and spiritual center, heal its waters, its light, its rocks, its air are different from other parts of the world ... Actually it is not great monuments, no major artworks, buildings are beautiful but not monumental. What makes this site special atmosphere

is people: the hundreds of volunteers who drag with a smile Disabled, men and women who comprise thousands of candles in old altars, the voices in many languages who pray or sing ... And that, for believers or agnostics, is contagious. Because then it shows that it is authentic. Here there is no hysteria, no passion and exuberance or runaway fervor. There seriousness, meditation, some excitement, no faith ... Many faith.

All ceremonies are shocking, but nothing like the torchlight procession that takes place every night from 21:00. Thousands of people with candles protected by a square of wax paper form an endless serpent of light from the grotto to the altar of the Rosary. Silent or chanting prayers in six languages illuminate the night of Lourdes stirring up even the most atheist.



# PRACTICAL GUIDE

The hotels in Lourdes is awesome, the second largest in France. A special recommendation is the new chain Lourdes Sanctuaries Hotels ( <http://lourdes-sanctuaries-hotels.com> ), which includes five of the most attractive hotels in the city, most four stars forming the largest hotel group, and lets you enjoy a good accommodation within walking distance of the sanctuaries, the commercial center of the city and the main points of interest in Lourdes. The chain, which has just been created, including the Paradis, Helgon, Miramont, Croix des Bretons and Aneto hotels. In addition to exceptional quality and service, the hotels are all clustered in the same area and located between 266 and 573 meters, a few minutes from the entrance to the sanctuaries. The group proposes 713 rooms and over 1500 seats, allowing reception of individual travelers and groups of all kinds. Your offer is complemented by restaurants and bars high quality

and excellent service, meeting rooms, stores, garage, parking for buses and availability of wi-fi.

It is very attractive formula called "**Ave Maria**" that combines the ride AVE train from Madrid to Huesca and the subsequent transfer bus company named Mary Alosa from this Aragonese city to Lourdes, a journey of five hours, crossing beautiful landscapes, which shortens three hours drive. The option is valid for all cities of AVE from Malaga, Seville, Cordoba and Zaragoza. This formula was launched in 2015 also from Barcelona via Toulouse, with a journey time of just five hours. **Prices, including travel by train and bus, accommodation of two or three nights, full board, start at 254 euros.** **T**

## MORE INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS:

**Lourdes Sanctuaries Hotels:**

**tel .: 0033 (0) 612 45**

**<http://lourdes-sanctuaries-hotels.com>**



