

TAMRON

NUEVO OBJETIVO  
GRAN ANGULAR  
SP 15-30MM F2.8



## PHOTOS AND TRAVEL REPORTS

### LOURDES, SPIRITUALITY AND NATURE



### BICENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLE OF WATERLOO



### HALLSTATT VILLAGE SALT



### IT IS TIME TO RETURN TO TUNISIA



### THE AGUEDAS IN ALMEIDA DE SAYAGO



## Lourdes, spirituality and nature

Travel reports July 6, 2015 Text and Photos Andres Magai 529 hits

There is always near and far destinations for some reason we do more or less attractive. In this report I approached Lourdes a small town located in the French Pyrenees. Where more than breathtaking scenery, the city has a supplement of spirituality not found elsewhere.

Lourdes is one of the most important destinations in Midi-Pyrenees, is a small mountain town where you can find everything. Just arriving here is to escape from the daily grind, take a trip within the trip, a destination whose memory is long.



Cosmopolitan and spiritual, Lourdes welcomes every year 6 million travelers, pilgrims from over 140 countries, from all continents, to share stories, encounters and emotions.



Considered a place of fraternity and spirituality is also a natural paradise, the starting point for many hikes, excursions to discover some amazing places in the Haut and Midi Pyrenees.

### Lourdes, back to basics

Lourdes is a small mountain town bathed by the river Gave de Pau, at the crossroads of the valley of Argeles-Gazost, Luz-Saint-Sauveur and Cauterets. Since prehistoric times, man has always lived in Lourdes as evidenced flint axes and carved stones found in caves Espelugues. Gauls, Romans, Barbarians and Moors successively fortified Lourdes in which is built the fortress (XI and XII) even today.

After a time under British rule, Lourdes rejoined the Kingdom of France in 1607, crossed the Revolution without too much damage, to become a small city with no major surprises, its population lived in the marble and slate around

## CHANGE LANGUAGE



## RELATED ARTICLES

- Discover the 15 sites to be visited in 2015
- GeoPlaneta presents ROUTE
- CroisiEurope, open your boat number 30
- Now on sale AVE tickets Girona and Figueres
- CITY TOULOUSE SPACE IS RENEWED
- Loire Valley celebrates the birth of Joan of Arc
- 25th anniversary of Futuroscope
- The most unusual accommodation Loire Valley

## ANDRÉS MAGAI PHOTOGRAPHER AND TRAVELER



## ADVERTISING

and visitors attracted by the waters of the hot mountain resorts (Cauterets, Luz-Saint-Sauveur, Barèges ...).

But everything changed in **1858** , in this quiet village in the Pyrenees with less than 4000 inhabitants ... **Bernadette Soubirous** , a young girl from a poor family, was collecting wood near the **grotto of Massabielle** when, on **February 11** , he appeared " beautiful lady "dressed entirely in white. This was presented only in its 16th appearance, on March 25, under the name of "**the Immaculate Conception**".

People start to go to the site of the apparitions, believers and unbelievers. The authorities try to curb this movement but can not do anything! The cave shrine back then. In total, there were **18 appearances** between February 11 and July 18, 1858.

The apparitions were officially recognized by the Church in 1862. From that time many pilgrims will go on. According to the wish expressed by the Virgin Mary to Bernadette, the priests were organizing processions and building a chapel (13th appearance).

The first train of pilgrims arrive at the station in Lourdes in 1866. It is the beginning of the economic and spiritual development of the city. Thus, Lourdes became a city of pilgrimage giving birth to a new city near the site of the apparitions and very different from the historic city, the "high" city huddled around the fort.

#### Lourdes, refuge away from the crowd

Outside agitation, the "high" city has retained its old architecture with typical houses Bigorre region. It is worth visiting for its slightly steep streets and enjoy top buildings with slate roofs.



#### Stronghold

The castle is an imposing fortress remodeled as directed by Vauban, and has been alternatively residence of the counts of Bigorre, refuge of mercenaries, then royal prison and finally garrison before hosting since 1921, a Pyrenean Museum.

Proudly overlooking the city, the castle, classified as necessities: residence of the counts of Bigorre, den of mercenaries, royal prison and garrison. Three successive defense lines, the modifications made in 1685 by Vauban and in the nineteenth century by the corps of military engineers have given this military building an air of ferocity.

About the dungeon, the location offers a panoramic view bit Historic Landmark in 1995, it is an important testimony to the history of the town from the tenth century until the nineteenth century.

#### The Museum of the Pyrenees, where "nothing that is in the Pyrenees should be foreign to us."

Following the motto of its founder, Luis and Margalide Le Bondifier, the Museum of the Pyrenees is the richest museum of arts, popular traditions and history of the Pyrenees. Presents the richness and variety of mountain cultures that are reflected in the costumes, furniture, funerary rites and practices in agriculture, grazing and craft.

Other memories, more recent, evoke a time that has disappeared: the beginnings of climbing in the Pyrenees with the first ascents of Ramondde Carbonnières and Henry Russell.

The only models representing traditional habitat and some religious dearquitectura samples. The creator of the museum has made itself the models of houses from the Pyrenees to 1/10 scale, magnificent illustration of architecture that can still discover curiously at the botanical garden. The castle is classified historic monument.

#### The Pic du Jer, the viewpoint of the city



**PAUL GUIDALI: MAD. MADNESS FACTORY**



Off Festival PHotoEspaña 2015, from 9 July to 3 August and from 24 August to 6 are ...

A 1000 meters, in the Pic du Jer are the best panoramic views of the Pyrenees we can observe from Lourdes.



The Pic du Jer, overlooking the city, and offers a unique vantage point with a spectacular 360 ° view over Lourdes, Tarbes, Pau, the Argelès-Gazost valley and the peaks of the Pyrenees.

You ascend to the heights by a charming and centenary funicular, inaugurated in 1900. Here you can visit the caves dating from the thaw, a few minutes walk along a small path you reach a charming restaurant with large wooden tables outside and with exceptional views ... Most chilly can taste the specialties of the restaurant inside "Haut de Lourdes". The highest of the city.

#### Lake Lourdes



A 3 Km. From the city center we find the Lake of Lourdes, a large glacial lake of more than 50 ha, here you can practice many outdoor activities such as walks, mountain biking, fishing or canoeing.

The **Via Verde of Gaves** is also an ideal location for touring the medieval tower, the nature reserve, the peaks, the banks of the Gave de Pau, the fortress, the abbey. This encircled them can go, along its 17 km., Walking, cycling, skating, etc ...

It is the first Greenway in France with quality label "Tourisme et Handicap" recomandada especially for people with disabilities

(motor, mental, hearing and visual).

#### Cosmopolitan Lourdes

Cosmopolitan and benevolent, Lourdes welcomes every year 6 million people from all continents, of all faiths to live a unique and personal journey and share stories, encounters and emotions.

Separated from the rest of the city by the **Gave River** , west of the city, near the Grotto, also known as the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes, is a private area of 52 ha. It is open every day of the year 24h / 24.

The **water** is ubiquitous in Lourdes, the Gave runs, falls from the sky but is mostly water source that Bernadette discovered on February 25, 1858, a symbol of purification. The beating heart of Lourdes in the Grotto of Massabielle, the rock being also the symbol of strength.



The **light** is also a sign of the candles, of course. The **torchlight procession** that takes place every evening at 21h, from April to October, is also a moving testimony. It is the most popular time of Lourdes and the strong moment of every day. This "magical" together to share among all nations, peoples and languages, of all faiths as well as non-believers. Moment

#### The "feutiers" a profession that only exists in Lourdes



The "**feutiers**" manage stocks of candles molten wax and clean the burners. With his leather gloves and blue aprons, these shadow workers watch over these millions of candles (500 tons per year) that burn steadily since 1858.

#### RESONANCES



Until 27 September 2015. Tabacalera Sala La Fragua Art Promotion.

#### BE CREATIVE WITH YOUR HEAD AND EARN 1,500 EUROS ON PRODUCTS!



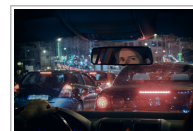
It is time the International Photography Contest 2015 Peli Peli Products, ...

#### ARCHITECTURES AND SPACES



Until 8 November 2015. Rac Collection, Cibeles CentroCentro floor 4

#### MADRID24H, EXPOSURE



Until 18 July. CentroCentro Cibeles.

#### LATIN

They are about ten "feutiers" guaranteeing pilgrims a place available along the burners. The candles are lit can not be stored and eaten outside the periods of pilgrimages.

Once recognized the apparitions by Bishop Laurence in 1862, a first "chapel" above the Grotto was built: **the crypt** . It was blessed in 1866 in the presence of Bernadette Soubirous, just before going to Nevers. The crypt quickly became too small to accommodate all the pilgrims and in 1871 the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception called "stands **upper basilica** " .

Its capacity was insufficient, and ordered to build a new, broader neo-Byzantine basilica **Nuestra Señora del Rosario** , was completed in 1889. It is known for its repertoire of Venetian mosaics master of the nineteenth century GD Facchina, whose facade is extended in about 2000 m². In each of its 15 chapels there is a scene of the mysteries of the Rosary.

From Lourdes you can make a lot of trips to one of the most spectacular sites of the Pyrenees, we highlight three.



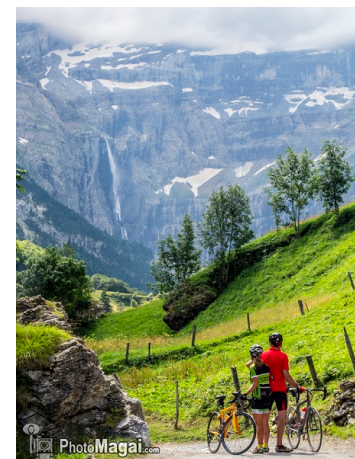
**Circus of Gavarnie**, 50 km from Lourdes

Inscribed on the World Heritage of UNESCO (classification obtained in 1997 by the cultural and natural values of the site), the Cirque de Gavarnie is renowned for its wall that rises to 3,248 m Pico Marboré and largest waterfall Of Europe. The assembly forming the gap Rolando (reportedly cut by the sword of Charlemagne's nephew, Roland de Roncevaux) always surprises and arouses admiration.

[www.gavarnie.com](http://www.gavarnie.com)

**Cauterets and the "Pont d'Espagne"**  
37 km from Lourdes

It is certain that the route of the waterfalls will leave you marveling at the vortex of the Pyrenean waters. The rise in cable car first and then lift up the top



of the Cirque du Lys at 2,300 meters above sea level puts the thrill of the peaks to everyone.

[www.cauterets.com](http://www.cauterets.com)

**The Pic du Midi de Bigorre and its observatory** 50 km from Lourdes

After fifteen minutes of ascent by cable car, the Pyrenees unfold before your eyes at 2877 meters, like a giant movie screen. Visitors are offered a unique panoramic view of the Pyrenees from the 750 square meters of terraces. In the museum different stages of construction of the observatory and instruments that have marked a century of astronomical discoveries is.



[www.picdumidi.com](http://www.picdumidi.com)

#### Some recommendations

A Lourdes can be reached by air, rail and road, we propose a very interesting option and is known as **Ave Maria** , which allows us to Lourdes on a weekend, departing from Madrid and Barcelona by train **Ave** to finish the tour in bus company **Avanza** . The route goes Ave Madrid to Huesca and from there by bus to Lourdes, meanwhile leaving Barcelona in Ave leads to Toulouse and from there also by bus to Lourdes. You have more information on this link.

Relative to the housing Lourdes is the second city in France after Paris in number of beds, with 173 hotels of different categories.

The group **Lourdes Sanctuaries Hotels** includes five of the most attractive hotels in the city of three and four star and is the second largest hotel group, you can 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 recently established, includes Elisha Helgon, Miramont, Croix des Bretons and Aneto hotels, and it is



From June 11 to August 28, 2015.  
College of Arts and Spectacles TAI c / ...

#### JAPANESE MANGA



Until 13 September, cycle CentroCentro City Bullets.

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC MOMENTS OF JOHN PASCUET



Next July 3 was inaugurated in the room L'Eix Comercial del Raval's ...

#### LUIS G. PALMA "CONSTELLATIONS OF THE INTANGIBLE"



From 11 June to 18 October 2015.  
Telefónica Foundation Space. C / Fuencarral ...

#### CHEMA MADOZ

noteworthy that in all of them is Spanish speaking staff.

For further information: [www.lourdes-infotourisme.com](http://www.lourdes-infotourisme.com) and [www.lourdes-france.org](http://www.lourdes-france.org)



12

