

# Saint Mary Magdalene Novena Pilgrimage



July 19 - 29, 2015



# Novena Pilgrimage in PROVENCE



**Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer** — Visit the parish church of Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer and see the relics of St. Mary Jacobe, St. Mary Salome and St. Sara, also known as Sara-la-Kali (*Sara the Black*, Romani).

**La Sainte-Baume** — For the Feast of St. Mary Magdalene (July 22nd), a procession is made with the relics (her tibia & hair) to the Cave of *La Sainte-Baume* where she lived the last thirty years of her life.

**Aix-en-Provence** — Visit the *Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur* where you will see the relic of St. Andrew (his right foot) and the sarcophagus of St. Mitre. The cathedral was built over the chapel that St. Maximin and St. Mary Magdalene dedicated to Jesus Christ (*Saint-Sauveur*). Maximin was the first bishop of Aix.

**Marseille** — Visit the *Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde* and the *Abbaye-de-Saint-Victor* where you will see the first century Christian church where Lazarus preached and heard confessions. Visit *Cathédrale Sainte-Marie-Majeure* to see St. Lazarus' skull housed in a gold reliquary. Lazarus was the first bishop of Marseille.

**Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume** — Visit *Basilique Sainte-Marie-Madeleine* for her Feast Day Mass (July 26th) and participate in the procession of the relics of Saint Mary Magdalene (her skull in its gold reliquary) through the streets of *St. Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume*.

**Tarascon** — Visit *Collégiale Sainte-Marthe* where you will see the relics of St. Martha. You will see King René d'Anjou's castle which is just across the street from the church. It was King René who ordered the excavation below the church of *Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer* which uncovered the remains of the two Marys (1448).

**Arles** — Visit the *Primatiale Saint-Trophime* to see the relics of St. Trophime, the first bishop of Arles.

This **10 day Saint Mary Magdalene Novena Pilgrimage** will focus on the life of Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection and on her companions who sailed from Palestine to Gaul (now France) in 47 AD and ended up converting all of what is now Provence. Throughout the *Novena Pilgrimage* we will pray our Novena to her.

The *Hostellerie-de-la-Sainte-Baume*, run by the Dominicans, is just below the forest that leads to *La Sainte-Baume*—the Cave of Saint Mary Magdalene. This will be our home for the 10 days of the *Novena Pilgrimage*. The Dominicans have been guardians of Saint Mary Magdalene’s relics since 1295 and she is co-patroness of their *Order of Preachers*. We will take day trips to many towns in Provence where Mary Magdalene and her companions lived, preached and died 2000 years ago.

Along the way we will discover the typical *Green Provence* landscape, crossing authentic and charming Provençal villages, meet a local producer of olive oil, and stop at *Four des Navettes* who for 200 years have been making the specialty “*Navette*,” a hard biscuit in the shape of a boat, flavored with orange blossom. We’ll dine at *Le Provençal*, an authentic Provençal restaurant in the lovely fishing village of *Sanary-sur-Mer* and visit one of the houses that has been making soap with olive oil for 100 years. We’ll pass by *Le Café Van Gogh* in *Arles*, which is the restaurant Vincent van Gogh painted in 1888 entitled *Le Café de nuit*, and see other subjects of his art in *Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer* and that of Paul Cézanne in *Aix-en-Provence*. We’ll also discuss a modern artist, Sharon Furner, who has spent time in Provence and captured the essence of Provence in many beautiful oil paintings. We’ll go to the fabulous Market in *Aix-en-Provence* and visit a workshop where they make *Santons de Provence*. We will have a special day in the area of *Cotignac* where in 1519 Our Lady appeared in the fields to Jean de la Baume, and in 1660 St. Joseph appeared to a shepherd named Gaspard Ricard.

**\$2,750**— **Double Occupancy** from Marseille Airport.

Includes 10 nights at the Hostellerie, all meals (except one lunch in *Aix-en-Provence*), transportation, admission fees and two tour guides.

**\$500** deposit to reserve a space and balance due April 30, 2015.

NOTE: This price does not include airfare from the U.S. to France.

#### TOUR GUIDES:

**Paula Lawlor**—is the author of *A LOVE DEVOUT—The True Untold Story of Mary Magdalene* and *Mary Magdalene in the South of France*. She was coordinator of the 2011 *Relic Tour* of Saint Mary Magdalene in California and the 2013 *Relic Tour* of Saint Mary Magdalene in Illinois. Paula and Véronique organized and led their first *Novena Pilgrimage* in July 2013. Paula lives in Solana Beach, California.

**Véronique Flayol**—is a regional tour guide, interpreter, and owner of Provence Premium Transport. She was born in Provence and is based in *Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume*.

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# Saint Mary Magdalene Novena Pilgrimage

## *The Provençal Tradition*

Tradition has it that, after the execution of St. James in Jerusalem (son of Zebedee and Mary Salome), Mary Magdalene, her sister Martha and brother Lazarus were persecuted by the Jews of Jerusalem and imprisoned. The Jews were afraid of the crowd if they were to execute the prisoners so they towed them off the shores of Palestine in a boat without sails or oars or supplies and abandoned them to the open sea. Others in the boat included Mary Jacobe, mother of James and the sister-in-law of the Virgin Mary, Mary Salome, mother of the apostles James and John, Maximin, one of the seventy two disciples of Christ, Cedonius, the blind man who was miraculously healed by Jesus, Marcelle, Martha's servant, and Sara, maid of the two Marys.

After narrowly escaping death during a storm at sea the boat finally came to shore on the coast of Gaul in a town now called *Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer* in Camargue.

Mary Jacobe, Mary Salome and Sara remained in Camargue. Martha traveled towards Avignon and ended up in Tarascon. Mary Magdalene, Lazarus, Maximin and Cedonius traveled on to Marseille where Mary Magdalene began to preach. They ended up converting the whole of Provence. Lazarus became the first bishop of Marseille. Mary Magdalene then went on to Aix where Maximin had already gone, some twenty miles north of Marseille. Maximin became the first bishop of Aix and Mary Magdalene retreated to a mountain cave on the plain of the *Plan d'Aups* known as Sainte Baume (47 AD) where she remained alone for the last thirty years of her life in contemplation, prayer and penance. She is said to have been lifted up by the angels seven times each day at the canonical hours and fed heavenly nourishment. The tiny chapel of Saint Pilon on the crest above Sainte Baume was built in memory of Mary Magdalene being raised by angels.

When the time of Mary Magdalene's death arrived she was carried by angels to the oratory of Maximin, where she received viaticum. She died in Maximin's arms and her body was laid in an alabaster sarcophagus in an oratory he constructed in the Gallo Roman town of Villa Latta or Tégulata, which after Maximin's death became St. Maximin.

Maximin, Cedonius and Marcelle are buried at St. Maximin. Mary Jacobe, Mary Salome and Sara are buried in Notre-Dame-de-la-Mer in Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer. Martha is buried in St. Martha's Church in Tarascon and Lazarus' skull (he was beheaded) is in Cathédrale Sainte-Marie-Majeure in Marseille.

*A LOVE DEVOUT—The True Untold Story of Mary Magdalene*

This pilgrimage has been designed by the Spirit of Mary Magdalene or "MADO," as she is referred to by the local people from old Provençal families. We will devote time each day of the pilgrimage to pray a *Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene* and reflect on the Gospel readings where she is present. You will get to know this exceptional friend of Jesus in a very personal way.

We welcome you to join us...

Paula Lawlor & Véronique Flayol

## Day 1 — Sunday, July 19th

Tour bus transport from Marseille Airport to the *Hostellerie-de-la-Sainte-Baume*, which is just below the forest that leads to *La Sainte-Baume*, the Cave of Saint Mary Magdalene. This hostellerie, which is run by the Dominicans, will be our home for the next ten days. For those who arrive early enough, lunch will be served in the hostellerie restaurant. After lunch we will meet and have a little tour of the hostellerie, chapel, bookshop, cemetery and the grounds. Later we'll meet behind the hostellerie and just below the Cave and together we will begin our *Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene*. We will have dinner at the hostellerie restaurant and then early to bed.

### ***Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 1***



Hostellerie-de-la-Sainte-Baume



Chapel of Saint Mary Magdalene  
in the hostellerie

## Day 2 — Monday, July 20th

Tour bus to *Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer*, the place where the boat carrying Mary Magdalene and her companions landed in 47 AD. We'll have a tour of the parish church where St. Mary Salome and St. Mary Jacobe lived (in the crypt) and see their relics along with those of St. Sara. We'll dine at *Brasserie Le Belvédère* by the sea and then ride up the Rhône in a boat to get a nice view of the *Camargue*. In June 1888, Van Gogh took a 30-mile stagecoach ride from Arles to *Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer* for a week long trip to recover from health problems. He made paintings of the seaside, of fishing boats, and of the village that you may know. We will have time to walk around the small fishing village before the tour bus takes us back to the hostellerie for dinner.

### ***Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 2***



Parish church in  
Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer



Camargue Cross

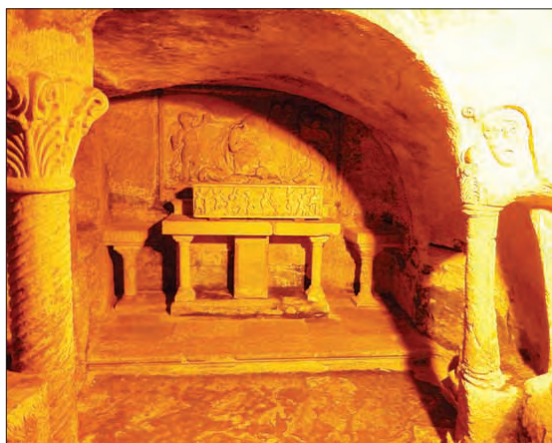


Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer

## Day 3 — Tuesday, July 21st

Drive to *Marseille* where we will have a panoramic view of the city and the port from *Basilique Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde*. Visit *Abbaye de Saint-Victor* where St. Lazarus preached and heard confessions and stop at *Four des Navettes*—for 200 years they have been making the specialty “*Navette*,” a hard biscuit in the shape of a boat, flavoured with orange blossom. We will dine at *Au Vieux Clocher*, then see *Place de Lenche* where Lazarus was imprisoned and beheaded, and *Place des Treize Cantons* where Mary Magdalene first preached in Marseille. We will see Lazarus’ skull at *Cathédrale Sainte-Marie-Majeure*. Then drive to *L’Église des Aygalades* where we’ll see the most beautiful statue of Mary Magdalene in the crypt.

### **Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 3**



Crypt of Abbaye de Saint-Victor  
where St. Lazarus heard confessions



Cathédrale Sainte-Marie-Majeure



Sainte-Marie-Madeleine  
dans la crypte des Aygalades

## Day 4— Wednesday, July 22nd - **Feast Day of Saint Mary Magdalene**

We will climb the mountain through the forest to the Cave of Saint Mary Magdalene with several hundred pilgrims in a special *Feast Day Procession* led by the Dominican priests who will carry the relics (her tibia & hair) with them. In 1295 Pope Boniface VIII entrusted the Dominican Order with the care of the relics and the Dominicans took Saint Mary Magdalene as co-patroness of their *Order of Preachers*. The Dominicans have guarded these relics ever since. After Mass in the Cave you may climb to the top with a picnic lunch to see *Chapel St. Pilon* where Mary Magdalene was carried by angels, or go back down and have lunch on the prairie.

### **Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 4**



Oratory built along  
the *Chemin des Roys*



*La Sainte-Baume*  
Cave of Saint Mary Magdalene



Chapel St. Pilon, built on the crest of  
the *Massif de la Sainte-Baume*

## Day 5 — Thursday, July 23rd

Visit *Basilique Sainte-Marie-Madeleine* at St.-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume where you will see the relics of St. Mary Magdalene (her skull), St. Maximin and St. Dominique. The sarcophagus of St. Cedonius and St. Marcelle are in the crypt. Drive to *Sanary-sur-Mer* to dine at *Le Provençal*—authentic provincial cuisine, and enjoy the fishing village and the sea. There will be time after lunch to stroll around the village and do some shopping. At the end of the day we'll return to the hostellerie for dinner. Official *Opening of the Feast* will take place this evening in *St. Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume*. There is the possibility that after dinner our tour bus can take us to *St. Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume* for the *Opening of the Feast*, but those who choose to go will return very late in the evening.

### **Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 5**



Basilique  
Sainte-Marie-Madeleine



Saint Mary Magdalene's  
skull in a gold reliquary



Sanary-sur-Mer

## Day 6 — Friday, July 24th

You will have the opportunity to discover the typical *Green Provence* landscape, crossing authentic and charming Provençal villages and meet a local producer of olive oil. We'll visit and dine at *Notre-Dame de Grâces* in Cotignac, which is the place where in 1519 *Our Lady* appeared in the fields to Jean de la Baume. Then we will stop at *Monastère de St. Joseph* in Bessillon, where in 1660 *St. Joseph* appeared to a shepherd named Gaspard Ricard who was desperately thirsty while tending his flock. Gaspard saw a man on a rock that twice said, "I am Joseph, lift this rock and you will drink." Gaspard easily removed the rock and found a spring and drank from it. It would have taken a dozen men to remove the rock that Gaspard had raised alone.

### **Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 6**



Castle of Pontevès in ruins



Les olives



Notre-Dame de Grâces in Cotignac



Monastère Saint-Joseph

## Day 7 — Saturday, July 25th

Today is a day for contemplation, prayer and solitude—nothing in particular is planned. We will share breakfast and lunch at the hostellerie restaurant. You may want to spend the day in the *Chapel of Saint Mary Magdalene*, joining the Dominicans in their seven daily prayers—*Matines, Laudes, Mass, Eucharist, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Vespers and Complies*. Or you could walk the grounds of the hostellerie and visit the cemetery and the lower forest. You may want to wander in the forest or go back up to *La Sainte-Baume* to Mary Magdalene's Cave for a more quiet, personal visit with her... Also, today is a good day to visit the Gift Shop of the hostellerie. Mirelle at *Brasserie La Terrasse*, next to the hostellerie, will prepare a special early dinner for us in her outdoor restaurant right below the Cave of Mary Magdalene.

### **Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 7**



Grotte des Oeufs



La forêt—Chemin des Roys



La Sainte-Baume  
Grotte de Sainte-Marie-Madeleine

## Day 8 — Sunday, July 26th - **Saint Mary Magdalene—Feast Day Mass**

After breakfast we drive to *Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-Baume* and take part in the welcoming for the feast and the procession into the Basilique for the 10:30 am Mass. After Mass we will celebrate with the people of the town in front of the Basilique, then have lunch in the town. We'll return to the Basilique for a talk on the "*Life of Saint Mary Magdalene*" and then follow the procession of Saint Mary Magdalene and the Saints of Provence through the streets of the town.

July 26th is also the **Feast of Saint Anne**

### **Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 8**



Feast Day celebration



Saint Mary Magdalene's  
skull in a gold reliquary



Les Saints de Provence  
in procession



## Day 9 — Monday, July 27th

Drive to *Tarascon* and begin our tour at the statue of *La Tarasque*—according to legend, St. Martha was able to tame this beast that lived by the Rhône and had been terrorizing the people. Holy water and a crucifix were her only weapons. Then we'll visit *Collégiale Sainte-Marthe* where the remains of Saint Martha are kept. Across the street is King René d'Anjou's castle. We'll drive to *Arles* and see *Le Café Van Gogh* (Vincent Van Gogh painted the café in 1888). And we'll visit the *Primatiale Saint-Trophime* just around the corner where there are an unbelievable number of relics.

### **Novena to Saint Mary Magdalene - Day 9**



Collégiale Sainte-Marthe



*Le Café de nuit*



Primatiale Saint-Trophime



Savon de Provence

## Day 10 — Tuesday, July 28th

Tour bus will take us to the fabulous Market in *Aix-en-Provence*. We will visit *Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur*, which was built in the twelfth century on the site of an ancient temple dedicated to the sun god, Apollo. St. Maximin and St. Mary Magdalene erected a small chapel on this site dedicated to Jesus Christ (*Saint-Sauveur*). The baptistry in the Cathédrale, built in the fourth or fifth century, is one of the oldest in France. You will have several hours on your own to explore the old town of Aix and to stop and have lunch. In the afternoon we will go to a workshop where they make *Santons de Provence*. Their origins go back to the first representation of the Nativity by St. Francis of Assisi when he recreated the first “live” Nativity using real people and figurines.



*Market Day in Aix Provence* by Sharon Furner



Cathédrale Saint-Sauveur



Santon - Olive Oil Lady

## Day 11 — Wednesday, July 29th — Tour bus transport to Marseille Airport as needed.

*Our Novena Tour has come to an end. We are sure you have gotten to know Saint Mary Magdalene in a very special way, and hope you have also enjoyed the Saints and traditions of Provence.*