Making a Pilgrimage to Lourdes

From Seattle by Carl Tenning

Best Time to Visit Lourdes

- Early September
- By mid-October many of the hotels are closed for the season.

Best Time to Purchase Airfare

- Start checking airfares in April.
- Second week in July has had lowest airfare posted.

Nearest Major Airport to Lourdes

- <u>Toulouse, France</u>
 No nonstops from *Seattle*. Typically connect in *Amsterdam, Brussels*, or *Frankfurt*.
- Connections also available through London or Paris, but is usually more costly.





Getting to Lourdes

- Seattle to Toulouse
 Fly to Toulouse then 2-hours by rail to Lourdes.
 Practical to do without an additional over-night en route.
- Seattle to Paris
 Fly to Paris then 6-hours by rail. Best to overnight in Paris.

All eastbound transatlantic flights from the US overnight in flight.

Typical Routes to Toulouse

- Delta: Amsterdam-Toulouse
- Lufthansa and Condor: Frankfurt-Toulouse
- Delta: Salt Lake City-Paris-Toulouse
- American: Philadelphia-Brussels-Toulouse

Tip: Lookout for long connection times when selecting the flight. A shorter connection may be only \$15 more.

Typical Routes to Paris

- Air France and Delta have non-stops, but usually more expensive than making a connection.
- Typical connections are Philadelphia-Brussels (American), Minneapolis (Delta), and Amsterdam (Delta)

From Paris directly by Rail (not over-nighting in Paris)

- If it's possible to get a very early arrival in Paris, you could transfer directly from the airport to Montparnasse rail station by Air France Bus. Figure at least 4-hours from the flight arrival time to make the train.
- A French Rail Pass is good if more that just twoway trip is desired. Only available in the US prior to departure. Least cost is good for three days travel.

Another Alternative to Paris

 Buy air ticket Seattle-Brussels if it saves money. There is a high speed train from the Brussels airport directly to Paris.

Connections Through Toulouse

- Toulouse is a very pleasant uncrowded airport.
 Easy to pick up your luggage and exit the terminal.
- Buy a bus ticket to the right of the main exit.
- Busses to the rail station leave every 20 minutes. Stay on until the last stop.
- Just a short walk from the bus station to the rail station, but you need to plan enough time to validate your rail ticket. Get in line.

Rail Station Restaurant

 There is a reasonable restaurant in the Toulouse rail station. Also convenient on the return trip.

Arriving in Lourdes



TGV Arriving in Lourdes (the TGV is the high speed French Rail)

The rail to/from Toulouse is the conventional type (not high speed TGV)

Trains to/from Paris are the TGV high speed trains.

Inter Cities Train





Second Class Seating

Lourdes Rail Station to Hotel

Taxis are available, but expensive, maybe \$15
 or \$20. But takes you directly to your hotel.



Lourdes Rail Station to Hotel

 There is an inexpensive city bus in front of the train station that goes all the way to the St.
 Joseph's gate. From there it's a short walk to

hotels.



Lourdes Rail Station to Hotel

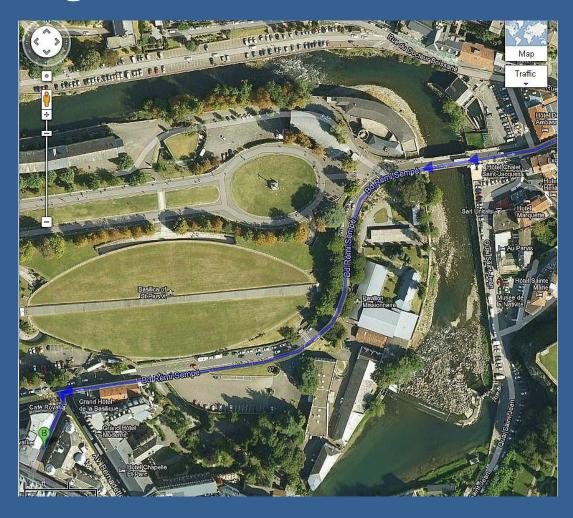
 But it's not a difficult walk from the train station to the hotel district if you know the way. And it's mostly downhill.



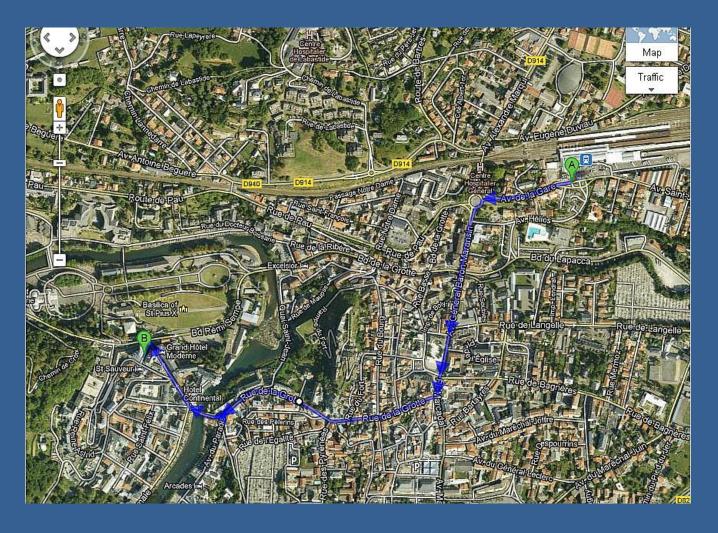






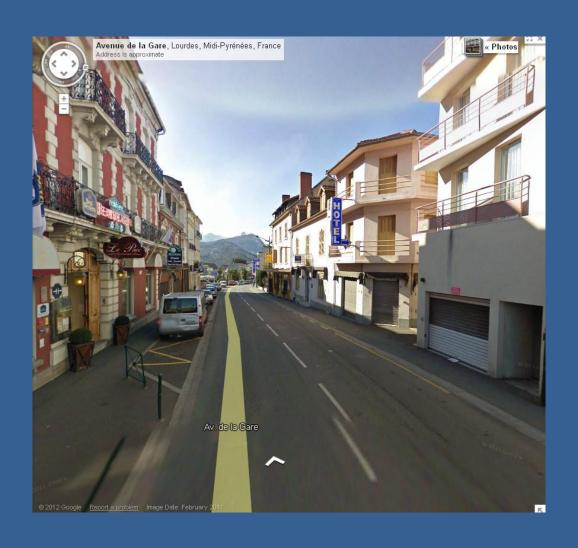


Alternate Walk Train Station to Hotels

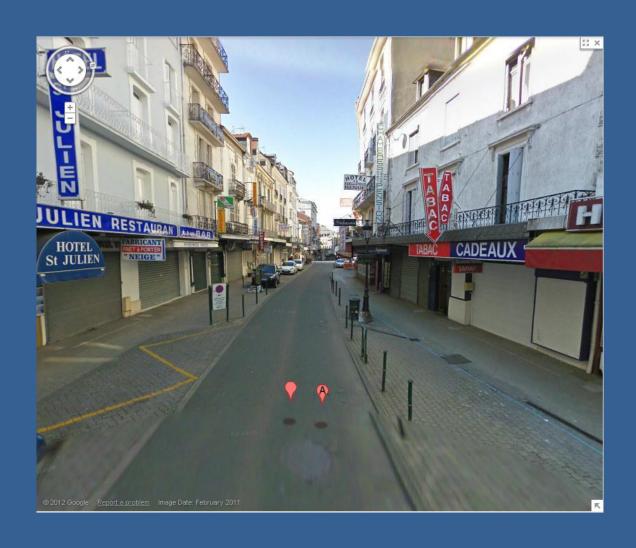


1.5 km (about 1 mile) 20 minutes

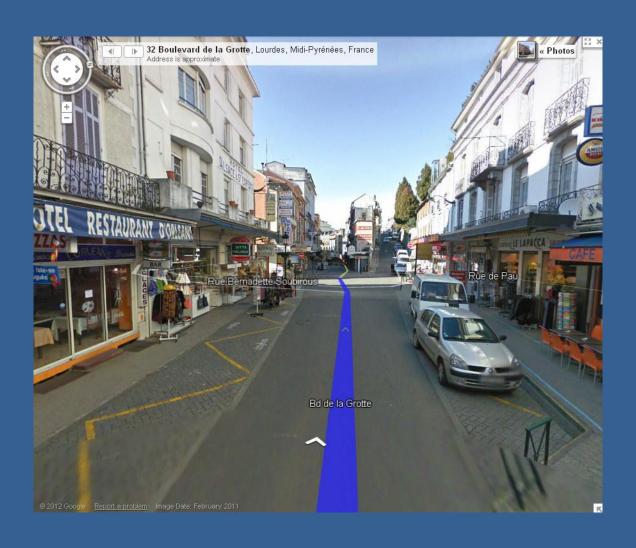
Down Avenue de la Gare



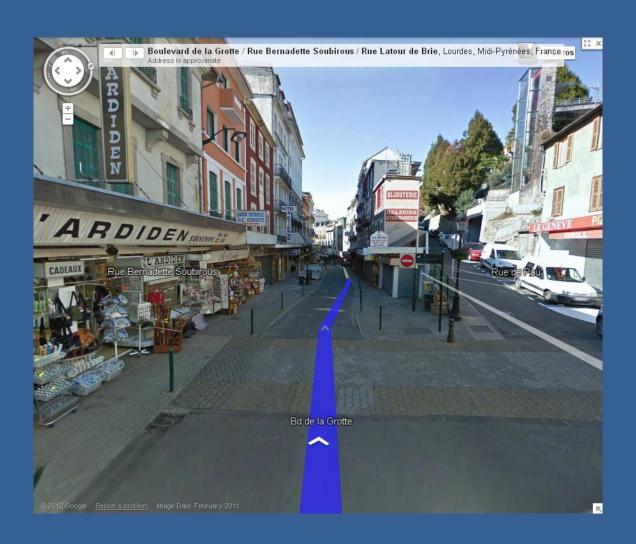
Continuing on Boulevard de la Grotte



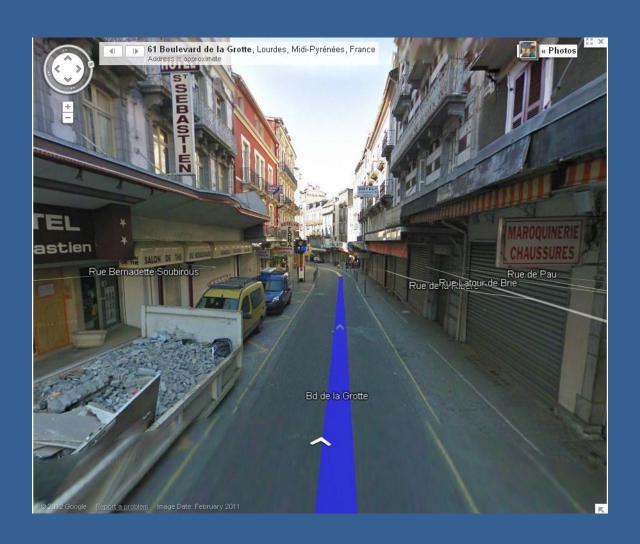
Further Down Boulevard de la Grotte



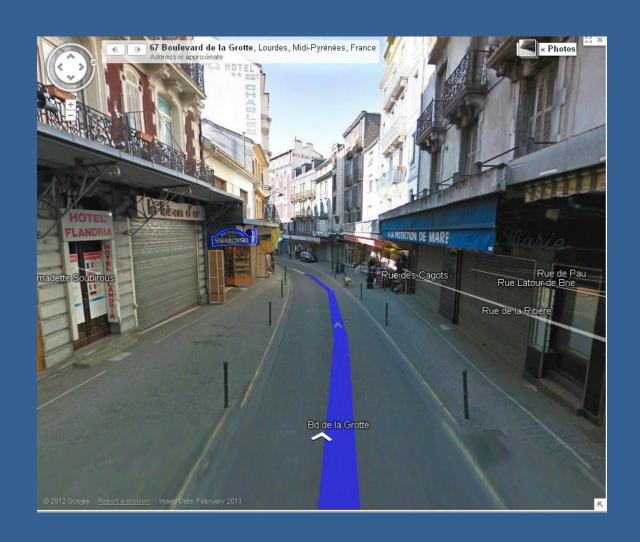
Still Further



Nearing the River Gave



Almost There



Continuing



Getting Close



Almost to River Gave



Bridge Ahead



Crossing the River Gave



Approaching St. Michael's Gate



Just Past St. Michael's Gate



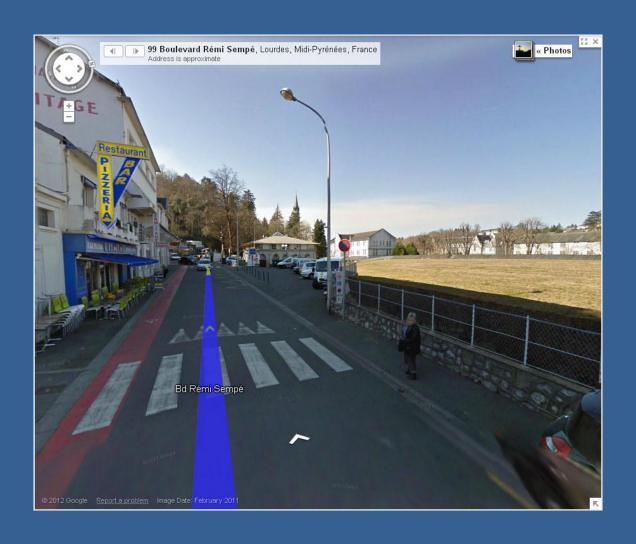
Passing the Underground Basilica



Approaching Nearby Hotel District



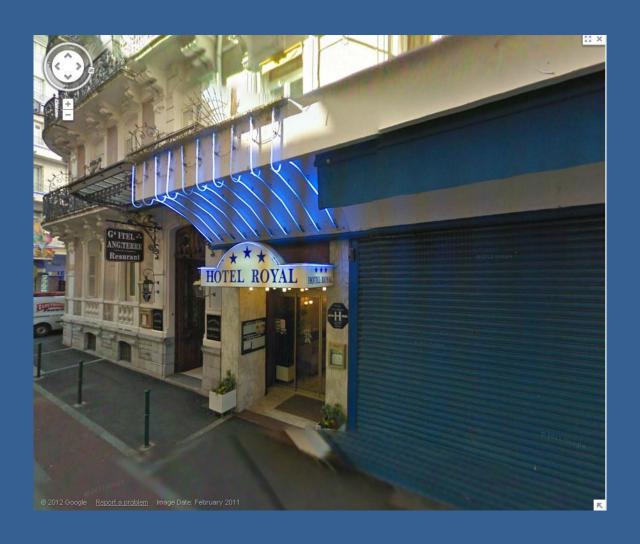
Almost There



Take Next Left



Hotel D'Angleterre and Hotel Royal



Hotel is Very Near St. Joseph's Gate

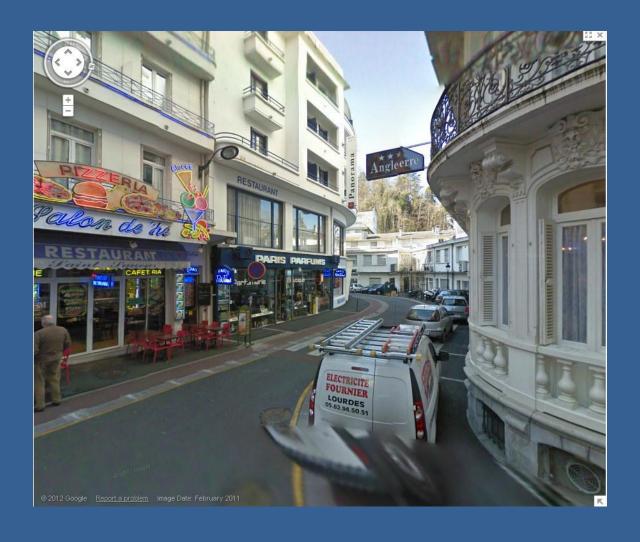


Hotels in Lourdes

- Approximately 375 hotels in Lourdes. All have the rating and rates posted at the entrance.
- Many hotels also provide meals with the room. Select "Full Pension" for all three meals.
- My Favorite: grand hotel d'angleterre



Very close to St. Joseph's Gate





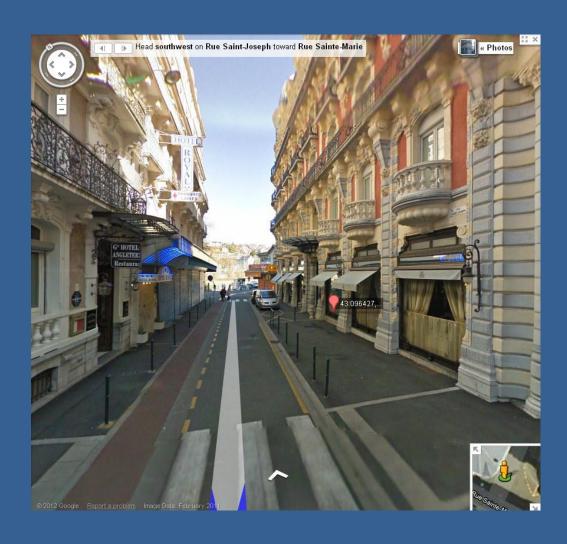
Street between Hotel Angleterre, Hotel Panorama, Hotel St. Sauveur and Hotel Grand Moderne.



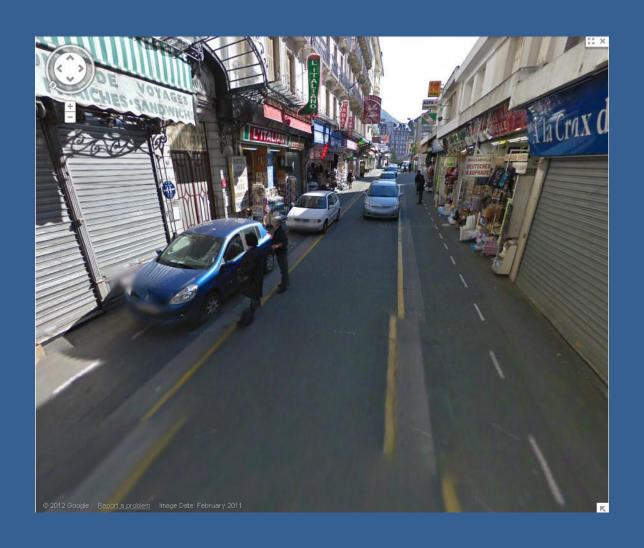
Hotels Moderne and St. Sauveur

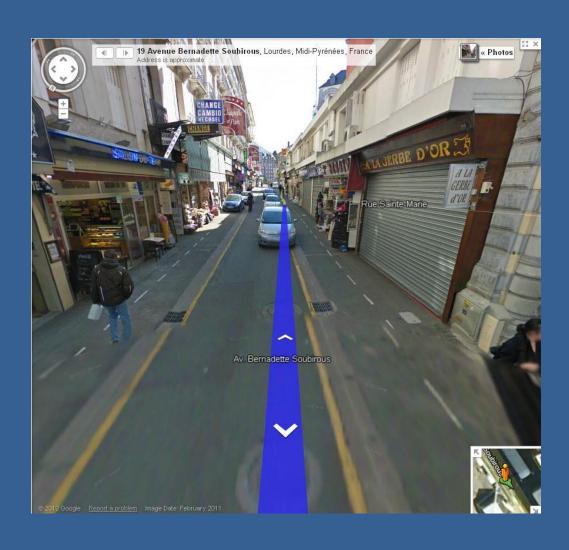
Rue Sainte Marie past Hotel Panorama





Rue St. Joseph between Hotel Angleterre and Hotel Moderne



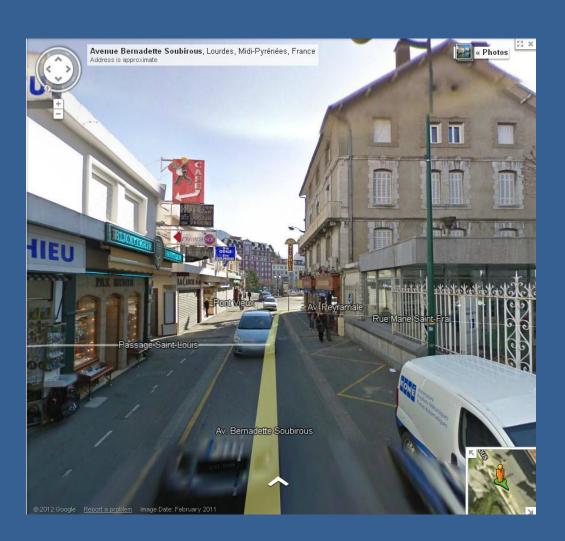






Walking Around Town

Avenue Bernadette Soubirous looking toward city center.



Continuing Toward River



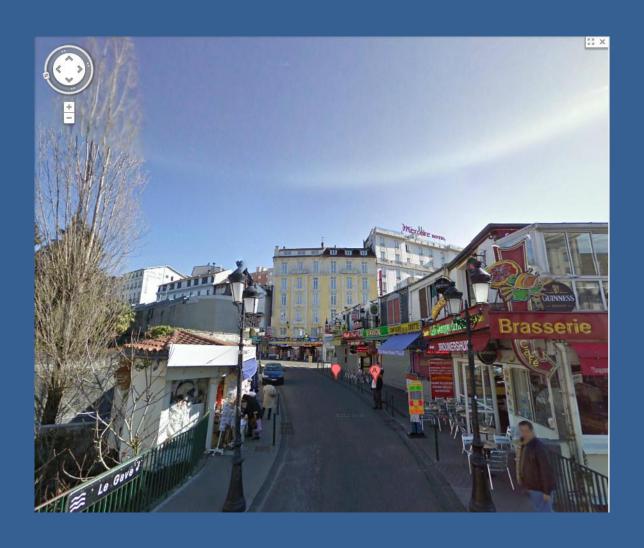
Crossing Second Bridge



Across the Bridge



Continuing Beyond the River



Intersection With Riverfront



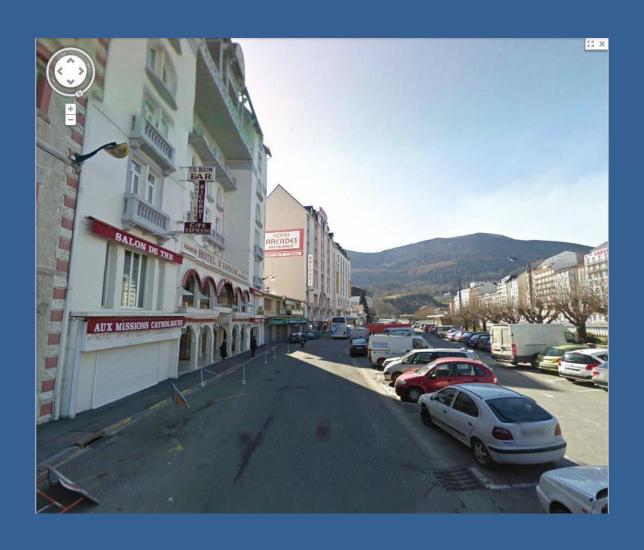
Heading Along Riverfront



Following River Upstream



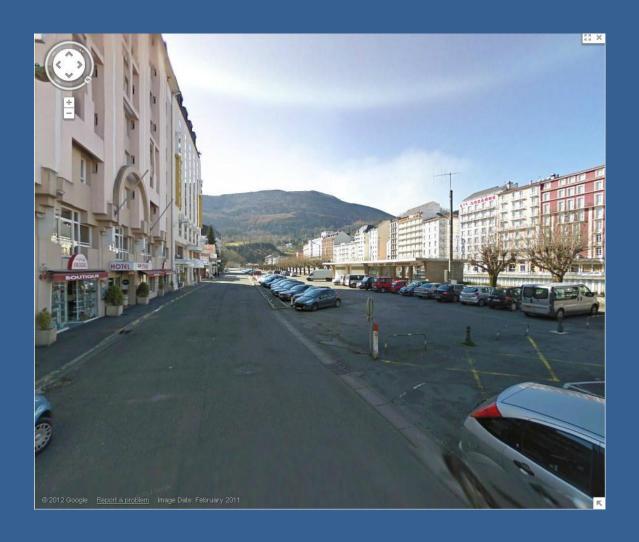
Following River Upstream



Following River Upstream



Approaching Bus Station



Bus Station
Bus tours are
available into the
Pyrenees Mountains.

Hotels Along the River



Hotels Along the River



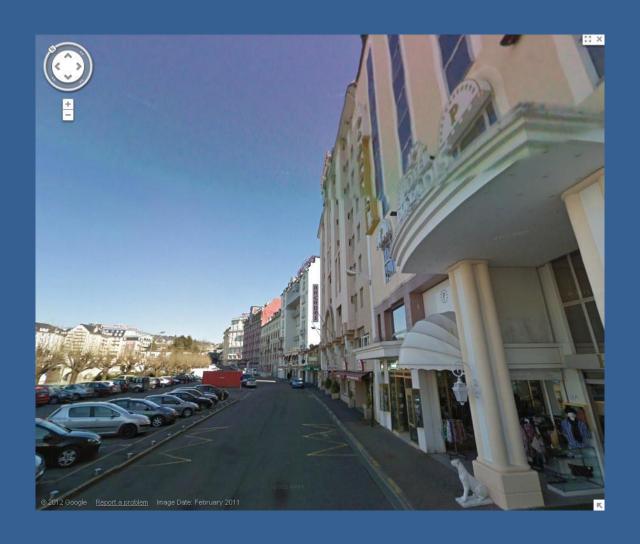
Bus Station



Bus Station for Tours



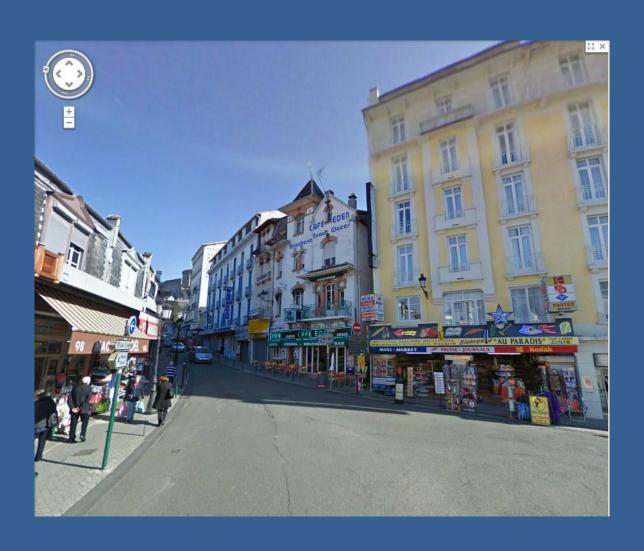
Looking Back



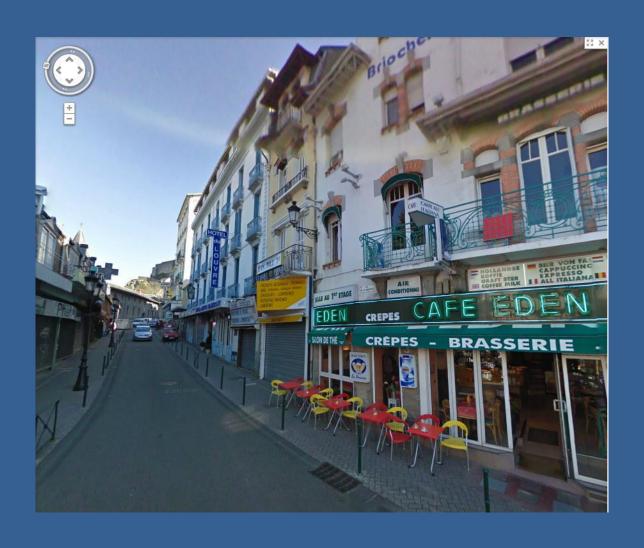
Back to Rue de la Grotte



Back to Rue de la Grotte



Continuing on Rue de la Grotte



On Rue de la Grotte



Hotel du Louvre not too far from Lourdes Grotto

Continuing on Rue de la Grotte

Convent of the Poor Claire Sisters



On Rue de la Grotte



On Rue de la Grotte



Hotel de la Grotte (not recommended). I had a bat in the room!

Hotel Royalty on Rue de la Grotte

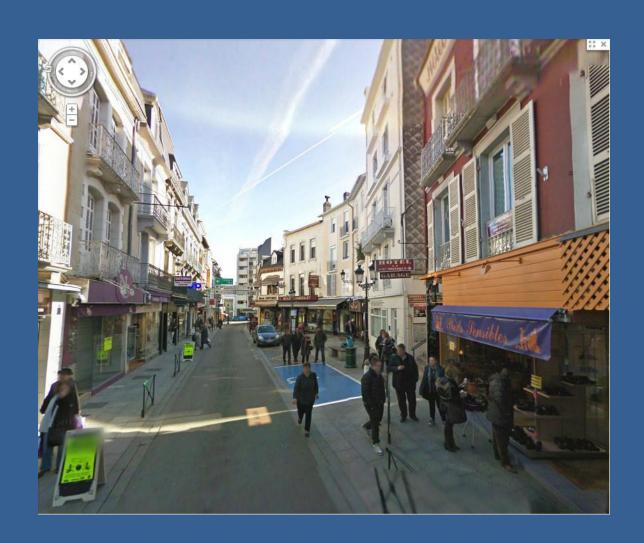


On Rue de la Grotte



Hotel De Rome on Rue de la Grotte. Still not too far a walk from the Sanctuary

Approaching City Center On Rue de la Grotte



City Center



Not too hard a walk for the physically fit.

Commercial Center of Town



Entering the Sanctuary

View From St. Joseph's Gate



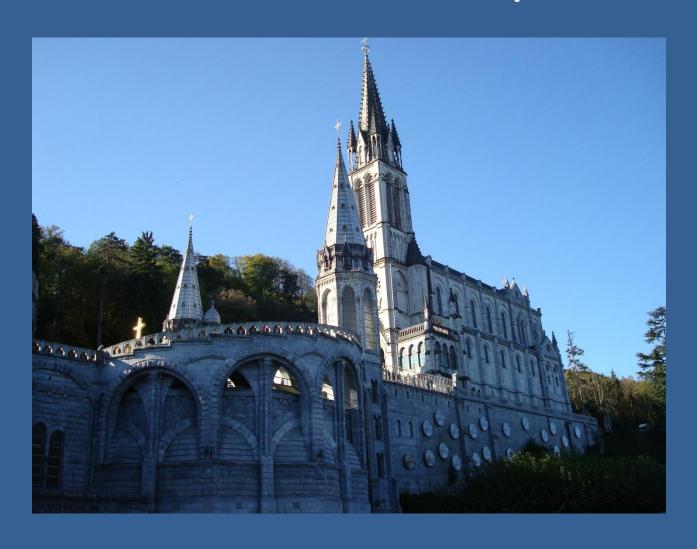
Looking back towards Hotel Angleterre and gift shops.

Entering From St. Joseph's Gate



St. Joseph's Gate

The Esplanade and Basilica of the Immaculate Conception



The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception



Inside the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception



View From Atop Rosary Chapel



Entrance to the Rosary Chapel



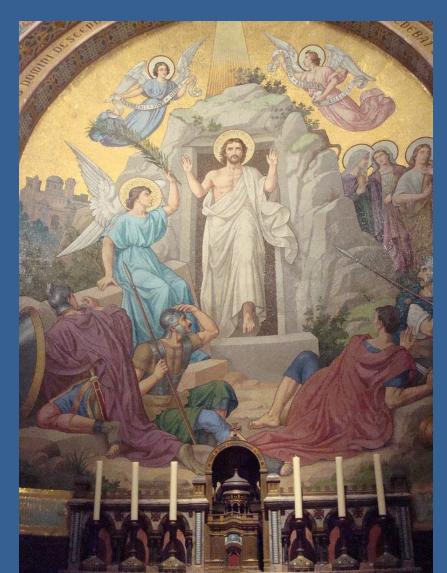
Entrance to the Rosary Chapel



Inside the Rosary Chapel



Beautiful Mosaics for Each Decade of the Rosary





Crown Above the Rosary Chapel



Esplanade to Crypt and Upper Basilica



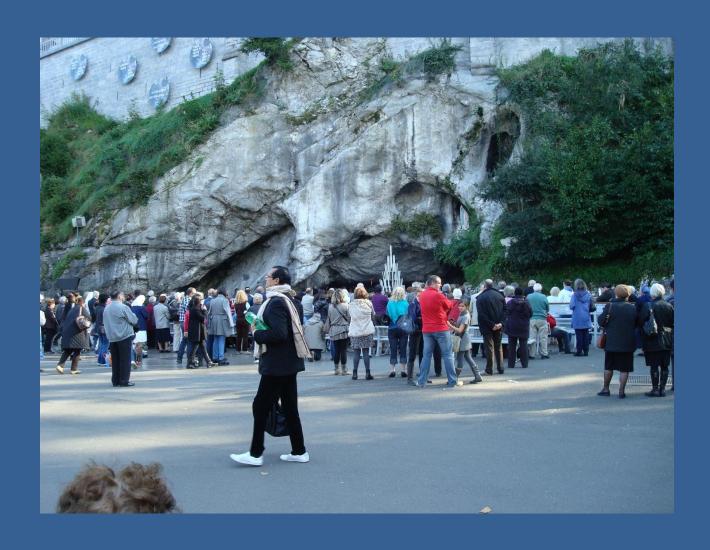
Blessed Virgin Mary Statue at Center of Grounds



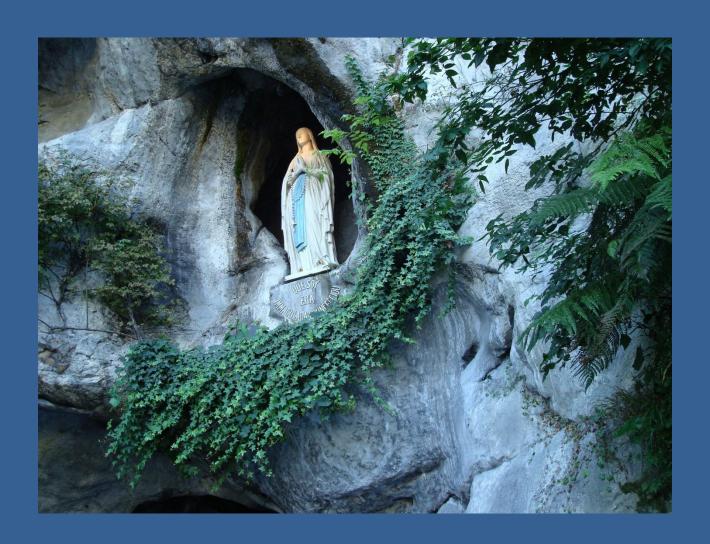
At the Grotto



The Grotto



The Grotto



SSPX Mass in Basilica of St. Pius X



SSPX Mass in the Chapel of St. Bernadette



Wheeling the Infirmed



Processing to Sanctuary



Processing to Sanctuary



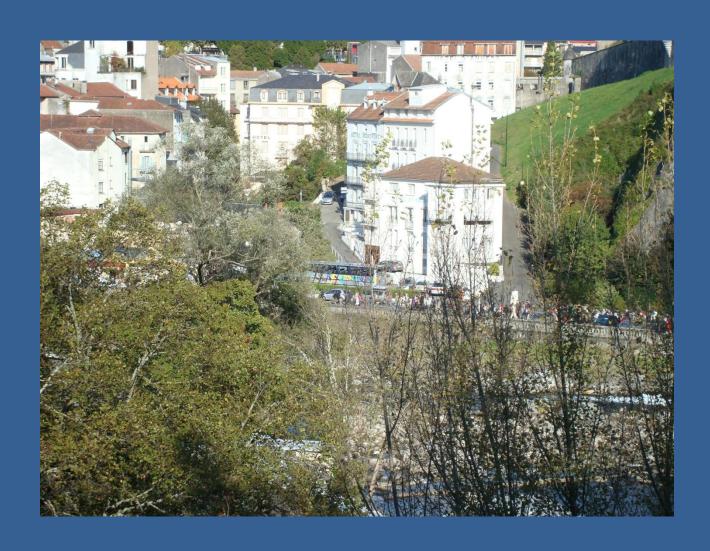
Processing to the Stations of the Cross



Procession Thru Town



Processions in Lourdes



The Baths



Final View Leaving Lourdes



Final View Leaving Lourdes



Fort Above the Sanctuary



10-Day Trip Including Lisbon, \$971 Air

DAY	DATE	AIRLINE	FLIGHT	DEPART	TIME	ARRIVE	TIME	Flight Duration	Equipment
TUE	8/27/19	United	UA 278	SEA	11:00 AM	ORD	4:53 PM	3h 53m	737
TUE	8/27/19	United	UA 987	ORD	6:30 PM	CDG	9:30 A +1	8h 10m	777
WED	8/28/19	Rail to Lourdes							
SUN	9/1/19	Rail to Lisbon							
THU	9/5/19	Air Canada	AC 1961	LIS	9:15 AM	YUL	12:05 PM	9h 50m	B767
THU	9/5/19	Air Canada	AC 305	YUL	1:30 PM	YVR	3:59 PM	5h 29m	737 MAX8
THU	9/5/19	Air Canada	AC 8099	YVR	5:00 PM	SEA	5:57 PM	57 m	Dash-8

THE END