WAYS OF SAINT DOMINIC
2015 - 2016
On the occasion of the Jubilee Celebration, the Dominican Family of Spain adds to the initiatives of the Order of Preachers the promotion of the Ways of Saint Dominic in Spain, southern France and Italy. According to the priorities identified by the General Curia, a team of Spanish friars has designed these routes with the collaboration of two agencies specialized in religious tourism, with capacity to be adapted to groups of all kinds and origins.

In Ideatur we assumed this responsibility with great enthusiasm and prepared to provide the Dominican Family from any part of the world with itineraries tailored to their needs and a full service and high quality.

From this moment we are at your disposal to develop your projects detailed and precisely.

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WAY OF SAINT DOMINIC IN SPAIN (3 DAYS) (BUS)

DAY 1 MADRID - SEGOVIA - PEDRAZA – BURGO DE OSMA

Meeting at the Dominican Monastery of Santo Domingo el Real. It is the place where the Baptismal font of Saint Dominic is kept. We will visit the Church, the Baptismal font and assist at the Eucharistic celebration. After that departure for Segovia. We will enjoy the City tour and visit the Cathedral. It was the last Gothic Cathedral built in Spain. The Cathedral is built on the highest point of the city. Its construction began in 1525, with Charles V. The architectural style is late Gothic. The Cathedral was rebuilt after the fire which destroyed the old Romanesque Cathedral in 1520. It has three naves, with side chapels and semicircular head with an ambulatory. The temple, built according to plans of Juan Gil de Hontañón, has three entries: on the main façade is the Door of Forgiveness, the masterpiece of Juan Guas. And then passing the Dominican Monastery (ceramics and crafts store) we will walk towards the former Convent of Santa Cruz la Real, the first convent of Friars Preachers in Spain, to reach the Cave of Saint Dominic. The Saint used this place during his staying in Segovia to devote to prayer and penance. In the convent, whose architect was also Juan Guas, the off cover before the high altar and the axis of the church stand out, both belong to the type known as "facades altarpiece". Lunch. About 17:00 we will take the bus to go to Burgo de Osma with a stop in Pedraza, where we will enjoy our free time in this beautiful walled medieval village. Departure for Burgo de Osma. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 2 BURGO DE OSMA – HAZA – GUMIEL DE IZÁN – CALERUEGA

Breakfast. In the morning we will visit the Cathedral, where Saint Dominic was the canon. The Cathedral is a Gothic building, which replaced a previous Romanesque one. The construction began in 1232, bringing other architectural styles such as the neoclassical one. It has a Gothic cloister, a Romanesque Christ of the era of Saint Dominic, an altarpiece by Juan de Juni and Juan Picardo, the Chapel of the Venerable Palafox, with a luxurious tomb of San Pedro de Osma and the Chapel of the Virgen del Espino, patroness of the habitants of Burgo. Departure for Haza, the place of origin of Blessed Juana, the mother of Saint Dominic. There we will admire the Church of San Miguel, the temple of Gothic and Romanesque style. From the Romanesque times it is appreciated what was to be the arcaded Gallery attached to the north wall. This location is not the most common, but not an exceptional one as it is found in places where most of population was concentrated in this part, as it was in Haza. From the porch remains the western arc, as the entire gallery was used to build the Gothic church. The Church has a door on its western side with pointed archivolts on fine Gothic columns and capitals decorated with vine leaves. After visiting Haza we will depart for Aranda de Duero where we will have a lunch. We will walk down Aranda to see the church of Virgin Mary and then depart for Gumiel de Izán, the place where Saint Dominic was sent to study with his uncle the archpriest. There we will visit the parish church dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary; it is the most important monument and it occupies the northern side of the Plaza Mayor. The Gothic church was rebuilt after the previous one. The door on the northern side is preserved from the previous temple. The facade and stairs are of the baroque style. After that we will take the bus to go to Caleruega. Dinner and accommodation.
DAY 3° CALERUEGA – SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS – MADRID

Breakfast. Caleruega is the birthplace of Saint Dominic where he spent his childhood. Here we will visit the Tower of Guzman and the Dominican Convent, the home of spirituality, the chapel with its Gothic crucifix and a baroque polychrome sculpture of Saint Dominic. There we will found the Dominican monastery with its cloister, museum and convent church under which is the birthplace of the Saint and the little draw-well of St. Dominic. After that we will have the celebration. Then we will go to Sto. Domingo de Silos to pray the sixth hour with the Benedictine monks (Gregorian chant). Lunch. After that we will visit the monastic complex of Santo Domingo de Silos. The Silos Monastery, dating from the seventh century, although its most important building is of the eleventh century. The building is located in area known as Valle de Tabladillo. Its foundation may be of the seventh century. In 1088 it was built a Roman temple, which later was replaced by another neoclassic one, created by Ventura Rodríguez. The cloister, which is preserved, is of Romanesque style, square and with two floors of arcades. The capitals of the lower cloister are decorated with symbolic dragons, centaurs, sirens, etc. The corners of the cloister are decorated with scenes from the life of Christ in enormous reliefs. In the Monastery are kept the fragments of the Blessed of the tenth century, a page of the Bible of Oña, other fragments of Visigothic manuscripts and musical fragments of twenty codices in Aquitaine notation. The legend says that in Santo Domingo de Silos the mother of Saint Dominic had dream that she would soon have a son and he would be a Luminary of the Church. That is why Juana decided to give his the name of Dominic as the village is called. After that we will depart for Madrid. Arrival and

END OF SERVICES

The proposed itinerary can be modified according to the interests and characteristics of each group. Transfers from any cities of Spain or any other country can be arranged. We will adapt the pilgrimage to the needs of each group.
DAY 1 MADRID - SEGOVIA - PEDRAZA – BURGO DE OSMA

Meeting at the Dominican Monastery of Saint Dominic el Real. It is the place where the Baptismal font of Saint Dominic is kept. We will visit the Church, the Baptismal font and assist at the Eucharistic celebration. After that, departure for Segovia. We will enjoy the City tour and visit the Cathedral. It was the last Gothic Cathedral built in Spain. The Cathedral is built on the highest point of the city. Its construction began in 1525, with Charles V. The architectural style is late Gothic. The Cathedral was rebuilt after the fire, which destroyed the old Romanesque Cathedral in 1520. It has three naves, with side chapels and semicircular head with an ambulatory. The temple, built according to plans of Juan Gil de Hontañón, has three entries: on the main facade is the Door of Forgiveness, the masterpiece of Juan Guas. And then passing the Dominican Monastery (ceramics and crafts store) we will walk towards the former Convent of Santa Cruz la Real, the first convent of Friars Preachers in Spain, to reach the Cave of Saint Dominic. The Saint used this place during his staying in Segovia to devote to prayer and penance. In the convent, whose architect was also Juan Guas, the off cover before the high altar and the axis of the church stand out, both belong to the type known as "facades altarpiece". Lunch. About 17:00 we will take the bus to go to Burgo de Osma with a stop in Pedraza, where we will enjoy our free time in this beautiful walled medieval village. Departure for Burgo de Osma. Dinner and accommodation.

DIA 2 BURGO DE OSMA – HAZA – ARANDA DE DUERO - GUMIEL DE IZÁN – CALERUEGA

Breakfast. In the morning we will visit the town and the Cathedral, where Saint Dominic was the canon. The Cathedral is a Gothic building which replaced a previous Romanesque one. The construction began in 1232, bringing other architectural styles such as the neoclassical one. It has a Gothic cloister, a Romanesque Christ of the era of St. Dominic, an altarpiece by Juan de Juni and Juan Picardo, the Chapel of the Venerable Palafox, with a luxurious tomb of San Pedro de Osma and the Chapel of the Virgen del Espino, patroness of the habitants of Burgo. Departure for Haza, the place of origin of Blessed Juana, the mother of Saint Dominic. There we will admire the Church of San Miguel, the temple of Gothic and Romanesque style. From the Romanesque times it is appreciated what was to be the arcaded Gallery attached to the north wall. This location is not the most common, but not an exceptional one as it is found in places where most of population was concentrated in this part, as it was in Haza. From the porch remains the western arc, as the entire gallery was used to build the Gothic church. The Church has a door on its western side with pointed archivolts on fine Gothic columns and capitals decorated with vine leaves. After visiting Haza we will depart for Aranda de Duero where we will have a lunch. We will walk down Aranda to see the church of Virgin Mary and then depart for Gumiel de Izán, the place where Santo Domingo was sent to study with his uncle the archpriest. There we will visit the parish church dedicated to the Assumption of the Virgin Mary; it is the most important monument and it occupies the northern side of the Plaza Mayor. The Gothic church was rebuilt after the previous one. The door on the northern side is
preserved from the previous temple. The facade and stairs are of the baroque style. It was declared as a place of Cultural Interest in the category of Monuments on August 8, 1962. After that we will take the bus to go to Caleruega. Dinner and accommodation.

DIA 3 CALERUEGA – SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS – LERMA - BURGOS

Breakfast. Caleruega is the birthplace of Saint Dominic where he spent his childhood. Here we will visit the Tower of Guzman and the Dominican Convent, the home of spirituality, the chapel with its Gothic crucifix and a baroque polychrome sculpture of St. Dominic. There we will find the Dominican monastery with its cloister, museum and convent church under which is the birthplace of the Saint and the little draw-well of Saint Dominic. After that we will have the celebration. Then we will go to Santo Domingo de Silos to pray the sixth hour with the Benedictine monks (Gregorian chant). Lunch. After that we will visit the monastic complex of Santo Domingo de Silos. The Silos Monastery, dating from the seventh century, although its most important building is of the eleventh century. The building is located in area known as Valle de Tabladillo. Its foundation may be of the seventh century. In 1088 it was built a Roman temple which later was replaced by another neoclassic one created by Ventura Rodríguez. The cloister which is preserved is of Romanesque style, square and with two floors of arcades. The capitals of the lower cloister are decorated with symbolic dragons, centaurs, sirens, etc. The corners of the cloister are decorated with scenes from the life of Christ in enormous reliefs. In the Monastery are kept the fragments of the Blessed of the tenth century, a page of the Bible of Oña, other fragments of Visigothic manuscripts and musical fragments of twenty codices in Aquitaine notation. The legend says that in Santo Domingo de Silos the mother of Saint Dominic had dream that she would soon have a son and he would be a Luminary of the Church. That is why Juana decided to give his the name of Dominic as the village is called. After that, we will visit Lerma where we will see the convent of Saint Dominic. Departure for Burgos. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 4 BURGOS - CASTROJERIZ – FROMISTA – PALENCIA

Breakfast. In the morning we will visit the city of Burgos founded in 884 on the banks of the Arlanzón by the Count Diego Rodríguez Porcelos under the reign of Alfonso III. It is considered as one of the most beautiful cities in Spain. We will visit the Cathedral, one of the best Gothic temples of XIII century. The slenderness towers, the dome and the Chapel of the Constables are completed with an interesting collection of altarpieces, stalls, chapels, stained glass, tombs and the famous golden ladder Diego de Siloé. Later we will visit the Monastery of Las Huelgas, founded in 1187 by Alfonso VIII and his wife Doña Leonor for Royal Pantheon. It was the first monastic center of Castile. About 12 o’clock we will take the bus for Castrojeriz where we will have lunch. This village was historically the head of Party Castrojeriz, one of the fourteen ones that formed the Municipality of Burgos. It is believed that it was the ancient Castrum Sigerici. The village has a configuration of Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James). It has several notable churches and buildings. There is a castle in ruins which has a rich history. It was founded by the Count Muño (or Nuño Núñez), who defended the fortress in the late ninth century against the Arabs. Previously, it was he was Celtic, Roman and Visigoth fortress. It is an example of the Jacobean urbanism, with houses built around the street road, which is the longest one of all those in the pilgrimage
route. About 16:00 o’clock we will take the bus to go to Frómista. Its habitants say this place is "the goddess of the Romanesque churches of Palencia". We speak of the church of the former monastery of St. Martin of Tours, founded in 1066. The perfection of its shapes, its architectural beauty and its rich ornamentation are surprising. Although part of its perfection is thanks to the extensive restoration of Aníbal Álvarez. It has the rectangular base, and it has three naves. The gable is flanked by two cylindrical towers, one of which was rebuilt in the restoration mentioned above. After that, we will depart for Palencia. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 5 PALENCIA – TORDESILLAS – MEDINA DEL CAMPO – MADRID

Breakfast. In the morning we will visit the Convent Church of the Dominicans in Palencia, the city where Saint Dominic studied in the University. The Cathedral is a magical place of light and mystery where a wealth of art and beauty is enclosed. The present temple was built in 1321, although the crypt of San Antolin has Visigoths and Roman remains of the buildings that preceded it. In this Cathedral we may find the Gothic styles as the Christ of Battles to the Baroque one, passing an extraordinary example of Renaissance art and plateresco. The works by Pedro Berruguete, El Greco, the exceptional work of Juan de Flanders in the major altar and the choir triptych are kept in the Cathedral. About 12:00 o’clock we will take the bus to Tordesillas where we will have a lunch and will visit this beautiful town with its Monastery of Santa Clara, built in the place of the old Moorish palace called “Fight of Benimerín”, which was built in 1340 by Alfonso XI of Castile after his victory in the Battle of Salado. San Antolin is a church-museum, where a series of artistic pieces of the church itself are preserved, among which is the tomb of Alderete. The building is a church of the XVI and XVII century, begun in the mid sixteenth and finished by Gil de Reynaltos in 1644. The chapel of Alderete has a balustrade with flamboyant Gothic pinnacles. It is also worth walking around the Plaza Mayor, which structure dates from the seventeenth century, the bridge or the wall, which originally surrounded the entire village and was of a fiscal and military character. At 16:00 o’clock we will take the bus back to Madrid to finish our trip. We will make a stop in Medina del Campo, situated on the left bank of the river Zapardiel, being the head of a wide Valladolid region of the Land of Medina. In medieval times (S. XV-XVI) it became one of the most important commercial centers of the Kingdom of Castile, with its fairs in the Plaza Mayor, merchants and goods from all over Europe. Its important wool market marked and imposed prices for this product in half the world, because it was sold and exported from Medina. Medina del Campo had a boom during the reigns of Henry IV, the Catholic Monarchs and Carlos I. Departure for Madrid. Arrival and

END OF SERVICES

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DAY 1 MADRID – FIGUERAS – CARCASSONNE
Meeting at the agreed time in Madrid Atocha station and departure for Figueras in the train AVE. Arrival and after that we will take a luxury bus to start our trip. Lunch en route. We will make a stop at the Abbey of Fontfroide, which was a place visited by Saint Dominic, the cradle of preaching and the center of the Crusades against the Cathars. It was founded as a Benedictine Monastery in the XI century by Viscount of Narbonne. The cloister is of the XIII century, while the church is of the XII century. It has a beautiful courtyard and the building of Legos brothers, the Court of Louis XIV, the Cloister with its beautiful galleries, the abbey church and a wonderful rose garden with more than 2500 flowers. Departure for Carcassonne. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 2 CARCASSONNE – FANJEAUX – PROUILHE – TOULOUSE
Breakfast. In the morning we will visit Carcassonne, famous for its walled town. It was one of the places where Saint Dominic preached. It is a medieval architectural ensemble restored by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc in the nineteenth century and declared a World Heritage Site in 1997. We will see the Cathedral built in the thirteenth century in Gothic style by order of St. Louis of France; It was built over the domus of the first century, and it was the fortress that housed the viscounts of Carcassonne. Built in the early twelfth century it had several modifications later, in 1229 it became a seneschalship by order of the kingdom of France. From 1240 to 1250, an important restauration to strengthen the wall was carried out; round towers, advanced Barbican to the gateway and the moat were incorporated. Lunch. Departure for Fanjeaux. It is the place where St. Dominic was a pastor and it was also a strategic center of his preaching to the Cathars. In this beautiful Cathar village we can admire several buildings, as the house of Saint Dominic, where he lived from 1207 to 1215, although now it is reformed a lot, it formed part of the castle of Fanjeaux, built next to the Church of the Assumption. There is also a niche with the Gothic arch where St. Dominic is depicted in a beautiful mosaic, and a stone cross of Teutonic style with the hand of God carved in its center. After that we will visit the Monastery of Prouilhe, the birthplace of the first Dominicans. Departure for Toulouse. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 3 TOULOUSE – EXCURSION TO ALBI
Breakfast. In the morning we will visit Toulouse, where the Order of Preachers was born. We will see the House of Pedro Seilhan, home of the first Dominican friars. The city was conquered by the Romans between 120 and 100 BC and was the capital of the kingdom of the Visigoths in the V century. We will see the Cathedral of Saint Sernin, one of the largest Romanesque basilicas in Western Europe and an important center of pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James) and the Church of the Jacobins (Dominicans) with its majestic dome of 22 m in height. The church was built in four phases from 1230 and continued throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Lunch. Departure for Albi, city of great importance due to its surrounding environment and its close relationship with the Cathars. Visiting the city: it is a town of Roman origin, located on the banks of the River Tarn, the clay of the river was a raw material for red bricks that characterize the local architecture, city’s cathedral, houses, bridges, palaces or mills. Santa Cecilia Cathedral is among its
main monuments, built in brick of red color. The works of its construction began in 1282 and lasted for two centuries. The Old Bridge is one of the oldest in France, and it is still in use. Next to the Cathedral is the Berbie Palace, the former episcopal palace which is the headquarters of the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum nowadays. After visiting this city will take the bus to continue our journey to Toulouse; if time permits, we will make a stop in Lavaur, a French commune of the Tarn department in the Midi-Pyrénées region. In 1211 it was the scene of one of the bloodiest episodes of the Albigensian Crusade. Its most significant monument is the Cathedral of Saint-Alain of the thirteenth century.

Departure for Toulouse. In the evening we will pray with the Dominican friars. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 4 TOULOUSE – LOURDES

Breakfast. Departure for Lourdes. Lunch en route. We will visit the Marian Sanctuary: it has special links with the Rosary (own element of Dominican spirituality) and this is a place where the largest annual pilgrimage is organized by the French Dominicans. We will see the underground Basilica of St. Pius X, Square of Crowned Virgin, Church of the Conception (upper), Basilica of Rosario (lower), Grotto of the Apparitions and the Church of St. Bernadette. Dinner. In the evening we will assist to the torchlight procession to pray to the Rosary. Accommodation.

DAY 5 LOURDES – ZARAGOZA – MADRID

Breakfast. Departure for Zaragoza. We will visit the Cathedral-Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar, an important baroque temple of Spain (it is the first Marian Temple of Christendom) and the historic centre. Lunch. Transfer to the railway station where we will take the train AVE back to Madrid. Arrival and

END OF SERVICES

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WAY OF SAINT DOMINIC IN SOUTHERN FRANCE (6 DAYS) (BUS)

DAY 1 MADRID – SAN SEBASTIAN – LOURDES

Meeting at the agreed time to depart for Donostia-San Sebastián by bus. **Lunch.** Continuation to Lourdes. **Dinner.** In the evening we will assist to the torchlight procession to pray to the Rosary. **Accommodation.**

DAY 2 LOURDES – TOULOUSE

**Breakfast.** We will visit the Marian Sanctuary: it has special links with the Rosary (own element of Dominican spirituality) and this is a place where the largest annual pilgrimage is organized by the French Dominicans. We will see the underground Basilica of St. Pius X, Square of Crowned Virgin, Church of the Conception (upper), Basilica of Rosario (lower), Grotto of the Apparitions and the Church of St. Bernadette. Departure for Toulouse where the. **Lunch en route.** Proceed to Toulouse Order of Preachers was born. **Dinner and accommodation.**

DAY 3 TOULOUSE – EXCURSION TO ALBI

**Breakfast.** In the morning we will visit Toulouse. The city was conquered by the Romans between 120 and 100 BC and was the capital of the kingdom of the Visigoths in the V century. We will see the House of Pedro Seilhan, home of the first Dominican friars. We will see the Cathedral of Saint Sernin, one of the largest Romanesque basilicas in Western Europe and an important center of pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James) and the Church of the Jacobins (Dominicans) with its majestic dome of 22 m in height. The church was built in four phases from 1230 and continued throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. **Lunch.** Departure for Albi, city of great importance due to its surrounding environment and its close relationship with the Cathars. Visiting the city: it is a town of Roman origin, located on the banks of the River Tarn, the clay of the river was a raw material for red bricks that characterize the local architecture, city’s cathedral, houses, bridges, palaces or mills. Santa Cecilia Cathedral is among its main monuments, built in brick of red color. The works of its construction began in 1282 and lasted for two centuries. The Old Bridge is one of the oldest in France, and it is still in use. Next to the Cathedral is the Berbie Palace, the former episcopal palace which is the headquarters of the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum nowadays. After visiting this city will take the bus to continue our journey to Toulouse; if time permits, we will make a stop in Lavaur, a French commune of the Tarn department in the Midi-Pyrénées region. In 1211 it was the scene of one of the bloodiest episodes of the Albigensian Crusade. Its most significant monument is the Cathedral of Saint-Alain of the thirteenth century. Departure for Toulouse. In the evening we will pray with the Dominican friars. **Dinner and accommodation.**

DAY 4 TOULOUSE – MIREPOIX - FANJEAUX – PROULHE - CARCASSONNE

**Breakfast.** Departure for Mirepoix, a medieval village. We will enjoy the old town and see the Cathedral of St. Maurice. Departure for Fanjeaux. It is the place where Saint Dominic was a pastor and it was also a strategic center of his preaching to the Cathars. In this beautiful Cathar village we can admire several buildings, as the house of St. Dominic, where he lived from 1207 to 1215, although now it is reformed a lot, it formed part of the castle of Fanjeaux, built next to the Church of the Assumption. There is also a niche with the Gothic arch where Saint Dominic is depicted in a beautiful mosaic, and a stone cross of Teutonic style with the hand of
God carved in its center. After that we will visit the Monastery of Prouilhe, the birthplace of the first Dominicans. **Lunch** in the Monastery and departure for Carcassonne. **Dinner and accommodation.**

**DAY 5 CARCASSONNE – FONTFROIDE – GIRONA**

**Breakfast.** In the morning we will visit Carcassonne, famous for its walled town. It was one of the places where Saint Dominic preached. It is a medieval architectural ensemble restored by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc in the nineteenth century and declared a World Heritage Site in 1997. We will see the Cathedral built in the thirteenth century in Gothic style by order of St. Louis of France; It was built over the domus of the first century, and it was the fortress that housed the viscounts of Carcassonne. Built in the early twelfth century it had several modifications later, in 1229 it became a seneschalship by order of the kingdom of France. From 1240 to 1250, an important restoration to strengthen the wall was carried out; round towers, advanced Barbican to the gateway and the moat were incorporated. **Lunch.** In the evening we will make a stop at the Abbey of Fontfroide, visited by St. Dominic as founded as a Benedictine Abbey in the eleventh century by the Viscount of Narbonne, and became Cistercian in 1145. The cloister is of the XIII century, while the church is of the S. XII. The courtyard, the building of Legos brothers, the Court of Louis XIV, the Cloister with its beautiful galleries, the abbey church and its beautiful rose garden with more than 2500 flowers are a real treasure. Departure for Girona. **Dinner and accommodation.**

**DAY 6º GIRONA – ZARAGOZA - MADRID**

**Breakfast.** Departure for Zaragoza. We will visit the Cathedral- Basilica of Our Lady of the Pillar, an important baroque temple of Spain (it is the first Marian Temple of Christendom) and the historic centre. **Lunch.** Departure for Madrid. Arrival and **END OF SERVICES**

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WAY OF SAINT DOMINIC IN ITALY (7 DAYS) (PLANE)

DAY 1  MADRID – BOLOGNA
Meeting at the Madrid Barajas airport for depart for Bologna. Arrival and lunch. In the afternoon we will visit the Plaza Mayor, San Petronio, the University, the old town with its arcades, the Neptune Fountain and the church of San Francesco. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 2  BOLOGNA – PISA - FLORENCE
Breakfast. In the morning we will visit the Church of Saint Dominic where we will see the Ark of St. Dominic. Great artists have been working in the tomb of Saint for three centuries. Also we will visit the chapter hall and the room where he died. The Holy Eucharist. Lunch. Departure for Pisa where we will visit the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Baptistry, the Duomo and the National Museum of San Mateo where we will see the polyptych of Saint Dominic. Departure for Florence. Arrival. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 3  FLORENCE
Breakfast. In the morning we visit this city, the birthplace of the Renaissance. We will see the Church of Santa Croce (the tomb of Michelangelo and the High Altar). In the Cathedral of Santa Maria dei Fiori we will admire the dome of Brunelleschi, Giotto's Bell Tower and the Baptistry with Ghiberti’s bronze doors. After that we will see the Piazza della Signoria, the Vecchio bridge and the Museum of San Marcos, where the bedrooms of the Friars are decorated with frescoes of Blessed Fra Angelico. After that we will see the Church of Santa Maria Novella. Lunch. Free time in the afternoon. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 4  FLORENCE– SIENA – ROME
Breakfast. In the morning we will climb up to the viewpoint of Michelangelo, where we will see the city in all its glory. Departure for Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Free time to stroll around the Piazza del Campo where the Torre dei Mangia is situated and to stroll through the medieval alleys. We will visit the Cathedral, a representative example of the Italian Gothic architecture, the Church of Saint Dominic, the Sanctuary House of St. Catherine of Siena and the Oratory. Lunch. In the afternoon departure for Rome. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 5  ROME
Breakfast. Transfer to Vatican city to attend the Papal Audience (Wednesday) or Papal Blessing (Sunday). After that we will admire the Vatican Museums, where we will see Greek statues, Etruscan vases, funerary objects, tapestries, mostly of Flemish origin, the famous Sistine Chapel with paintings by Michelangelo and many other works of art. Lunch in restaurant near Vatican. In the afternoon we will realize a panoramic city tour to see the city landmarks. We will go to the Basilica of San Peter In Chains (Moses by Michelangelo), this Basilica of the V century houses the relics of the chains that bound St. Peter during his imprisonment in Jerusalem. Transfer to the Basilica of Santa Sabina, General Curia of the Order of Preachers to celebrate the Eucharist and visit it. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner in restaurant near the hotel. Accommodation.
DAY 6  ROME

Breakfast. Early in the morning we will visit the Basilica San Juan de Letran Mayor and the Basilica of San Clemente (archaeological site). Transfer to Vatican to visit the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. Lunch. In the Afternoon we will visit the Church of Sta. Maria Sopra Minerva, the only Gothic church in Rome. It contains a lot of Renaissance treasures, among which is the Chapel Caraffa. In the church St. Catherine of Siena and a great painter Fra Angelico are buried. After that we will discover the "Baroque Rome" to admire the Trevi Fountain, the spectacular Piazza Navona and Piazza of Spain, etc. Dinner. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation.

DAY 7  ROME – MADRID

Breakfast. Departure for The Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls to celebrate the Eucharist. Then we will visit the catacombs, a labyrinth of galleries with niches and sarcophagi. Lunch. Transfer to the Rome airport to depart for Madrid. Arrival and

END OF SERVICES

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DAY 1 MADRID – VENICE (MESTRE)
Meeting at the Madrid Barajas airport to take a flight to Venice. Arrival and departure for Tronchetto to take a private vaporetto with destination Piazza San Marco. Arrival in Venice. Lunch. In the afternoon we will realize a sightseeing tour of the city of canals. Free time and dinner. At the agreed time we will take a private vaporetto to come back to Tronchetto to depart for Mestre. Arrival and accommodation in the hotel.

DAY 2 VENICE (MESTRE) - RAVENNA - BOLOGNA (THE WAY OF SANTO DOMINGO STARTS.)
Breakfast. Departure for Ravenna, the capital of the Western Roman Empire. It has eight World Heritage monuments, for example the Church of San Vitale and The Basilica of Sant’ Apollinare in Classe. We will visit the Basilica of St. Apollinaris and optionally the Church of San Vitale. Lunch. Departure for Bologna to visit the Plaza Mayor, San Petronio, the University, the old town with its arcades, the Neptune Fountain and the church of San Francesco. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 3 BOLOGNA – PISA - FLORENCE
Breakfast. In the morning we will visit the Church of Saint Dominic where we will see the Ark of St. Dominic. Great artists have been working in the tomb of Saint for three centuries. Also we will visit the chapter hall and the room where he died. The Holy Eucharist. Lunch. Departure for Pisa where we will visit the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Baptistery, the Duomo and the National Museum of San Mateo where we will see the polyptych of Saint Dominic. Departure for Florence. Arrival. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 4 FLORENCE
Breakfast. In the morning we visit this city, the birthplace of the Renaissance. We will see the Church of Santa Croce (the tomb of Michelangelo and the High Altar). In the Cathedral of Santa Maria dei Fiori we will admire the dome of Brunelleschi, Giotto’s Bell Tower and the Baptistery with Ghiberti's bronze doors. After that we will see the Piazza della Signoria, the Vecchio bridge and the Museum of San Marcos, where the bedrooms of the Friars are decorated with frescoes of Blessed Fra Angelico. After that we will see the Church of Santa Maria Novella. Lunch. Free time in the afternoon. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 5 FLORENCE – SIENA – ROME
Breakfast. In the morning we will climb up to the viewpoint of Michelangelo, where we will see the city in all its glory. Departure for Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Free time to stroll around the Piazza del Campo where the Torre dei Mangia is situated and to stroll through the medieval alleys. We will visit the Cathedral, a representative example of the Italian Gothic architecture, the Church of Saint Dominic, the Sanctuary House of St. Catherine of Siena and the Oratory. Lunch. In the afternoon departure for Rome. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner and accommodation.
DAY 6  ROME

Breakfast. Transfer to Vatican city to attend the Papal Audience (Wednesday) or Papal Blessing (Sunday). After that we will admire the Vatican Museums, where we will see Greek statues, Etruscan vases, funerary objects, tapestries, mostly of Flemish origin, the famous Sistine Chapel with paintings by Michelangelo and many other works of art. Lunch in restaurant near Vatican. In the afternoon we will realize a panoramic city tour to see the city landmarks. We will go to the Basilica of San Peter In Chains (Moses by Michelangelo), this Basilica of the V century houses the relics of the chains that bound St. Peter during his imprisonment in Jerusalem. Transfer to the Basilica of Santa Sabina, General Curia of the Order of Preachers to celebrate the Eucharist and visit it. Transfer to the hotel. Dinner in restaurant near the hotel. Accommodation.

DAY 7  ROME

Breakfast. Early in the morning we will visit the Basilica San Juan de Letran Mayor and the Basilica of San Clemente (archaeological site). Transfer to Vatican to visit the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. Lunch. In the Afternoon we will visit the Church of Sta. Maria Sopra Minerva, the only Gothic church in Rome. It contains a lot of Renaissance treasures, among which is the Chapel Caraffa. In the church St. Catherine of Siena and a great painter Fra Angelico are buried. After that we will discover the "Baroque Rome" to admire the Trevi Fountain, the spectacular Piazza Navona and Piazza of Spain, etc. Dinner. Transfer to the hotel. Accommodation.

DAY 8  ROME – MADRID

Breakfast. Departure for The Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls to celebrate the Eucharist. Then we will visit the catacombs, a labyrinth of galleries with niches and sarcophagi. Lunch. Transfer to the Rome airport to depart for Madrid. Arrival and

END OF SERVICES

The proposed itinerary can be modified according to the interests and characteristics of each group. Transfers from any cities of Spain or any other country can be arranged. We will adapt the pilgrimage to the needs of each group.
DAY 1 MADRID – SEGOVIA – BURGO DE OSMA – CALERUEGA

Meeting at the Dominican Monastery of Santo Domingo el Real. It is the place where the Baptismal font of Saint Dominic is kept. We will visit the Church, the Baptismal font and assist at the Eucharistic celebration. After that, departure for Segovia. We will enjoy the City tour and visit the Cathedral. It was the last Gothic Cathedral built in Spain. The Cathedral is built on the highest point of the city. Its construction began in 1525, with Charles V. The architectural style is late Gothic. The Cathedral was rebuilt after the fire, which destroyed the old Romanesque Cathedral in 1520. It has three naves, with side chapels and semicircular head with an ambulatory. The temple, built according to plans of Juan Gil de Hontañón, has three entries: on the main facade is the Door of Forgiveness, the masterpiece of Juan Guas. And then passing the Dominican Monastery (ceramics and crafts store) we will walk towards the former Convent of Santa Cruz la Real, the first convent of Friars Preachers in Spain, to reach the Cave of Saint Dominic. This place was, used by the Saint during his staying in Segovia to devote to prayer and penance. In the convent, whose architect was also Juan Guas, the off cover before the high altar and the axis of the church stand out, both belong to the type known as “facades altarpiece”. Lunch. About 17:00 we will take the bus to go to Burgos. We will visit the Cathedral, where Saint Dominic was the canon. The Cathedral is a Gothic building which replaced a previous Romanesque one. The construction began in 1232, bringing other architectural styles such as the neoclassical one. It has a Gothic cloister, a Romanesque Christ of the era of St. Dominic, an altarpiece by Juan de Juni and Juan Picardo, the Chapel of the Venerable Palafoux, with a luxurious tomb of San Pedro de Osma and the Chapel of the Virgen del Espino, patroness of the habitants of Burgo. Departure for Caleruega. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 2 CALERUEGA – SANTO DOMINGO DE SILOS – BURGOS

Breakfast. Caleruega is the birthplace of Saint Dominic where he spent his childhood. Here we will visit the Tower of Guzman and the Dominican Convent, the home of spirituality, the chapel with its Gothic crucifix and a baroque polychrome sculpture of St. Dominic. There we will found the Dominican monastery with its cloister, museum and convent church under which is the birthplace of the Saint and the little draw-well of Saint Dominic. After that we will have the celebration. Then we will go to Sto. Domingo de Silos to pray the sixth hour with the Benedictine monks (Gregorian chant). Lunch. After that we will visit the monastic complex of Santo Domingo de Silos. The Silos Monastery, dating from the seventh century, although its most important building is of the eleventh century. The building is located in area known as Valle de Tabladillo. Its foundation may be of the seventh century. In 1088 it was built a Roman temple which later was replaced by another neoclassic one created by Ventura Rodríguez. The cloister which is preserved is of Romanesque style, square and with two floors of arcades. The capitals of the lower cloister are decorated with symbolic dragons, centaurs, sirens, etc. The corners of the cloister are decorated with scenes from the life of Christ in enormous reliefs. In the Monastery are kept the fragments of the Blessed of the tenth century, a page of the Bible of Oña, other fragments of Visigothic manuscripts and musical fragments of twenty codices in Aquitaine notation. The legend says that in Santo Domingo de Silos the mother of Saint Dominic had dream that she would soon have a son and he
would be a Luminary of the Church. That is why Juana decided to give his the name of Dominic as the village is called. Departure for Burgos. Dinner and accommodation.

DIA 3º BURGOS - LOURDES

**Breakfast.** In the morning we will visit the city of Burgos founded in 884 on the banks of the Arlanzón by the Count Diego Rodríguez Porcelos under the reign of Alfonso III. It is considered as one of the most beautiful cities in Spain. We will visit the Cathedral, one of the best Gothic temples of XIII century. The slenderness towers, the dome and the Chapel of the Constables are completed with an interesting collection of altarpieces, stalls, chapels, stained glass, tombs and the famous golden ladder Diego de Siloé. Later we will visit the Monastery of Las Huelgas, founded in 1187 by Alfonso VIII and his wife Doña Leonor for Royal Pantheon. It was the first monastic center of Castile. Departure for Lourdes. Lunch in route. Dinner. In the evening we will assist to the torchlight procession to pray to the Rosary. Accommodation.

DAY 4 LOURDES - TOULOUSE

**Breakfast.** We will visit the Marian Sanctuary: it has special links with the Rosary (own element of Dominican spirituality) and this is a place where the largest annual pilgrimage is organized by the French Dominicans. We will see the underground Basilica of St. Pius X, Square of Crowned Virgin, Church of the Conception (upper), Basilica of Rosario (lower), Grotto of the Apparitions and the Church of St. Bernadette. Departure for Toulouse. Lunch en route. Proceed to Toulouse, where the Order of Preachers was born. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 5 TOULOUSE – EXCURSION TO ALBI

**Breakfast.** In the morning we will visit Toulouse. The city was conquered by the Romans between 120 and 100 BC and was the capital of the kingdom of the Visigoths in the V century. We will see the House of Pedro Seilhan, home of the first Dominican friars. We will see the Cathedral of Saint Sernin, one of the largest Romanesque basilicas in Western Europe and an important center of pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago (Way of St. James) and the Church of the Jacobins (Dominicans) with its majestic dome of 22 m in height. The church was built in four phases from 1230 and continued throughout the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. Lunch. Departure for Albi, city of great importance due to its surrounding environment and its close relationship with the Cathars. Visiting the city: it is a town of Roman origin, located on the banks of the River Tarn, the clay of the river was a raw material for red bricks that characterize the local architecture, city’s cathedral, houses, bridges, palaces or mills. Santa Cecilia Cathedral is among its main monuments, built in brick of red color. The works of its construction began in 1282 and lasted for two centuries. The Old Bridge is one of the oldest in France, and it is still in use. Next to the Cathedral is the Berbie Palace, the former episcopal palace which is the headquarters of the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum nowadays. After visiting this city will take the bus to continue our journey to Toulouse; if time permits, we will make a stop in Lavaur, a French commune of the Tarn department in the Midi-Pyrénées region. In 1211 it was the scene of one of the bloodiest episodes of the Albigensian Crusade. Its most significant monument is the Cathedral of Saint-Alain of the thirteenth century. Departure for Toulouse. In the evening we will pray with the Dominican friars. Dinner and accommodation.
DAY 6 TOULOUSE – FANJEAX – PROUILHE - CARCASSONNE

Breakfast. Departure for Fanjeaux. It is the place where Saint Dominic was a pastor and it was also a strategic center of his preaching to the Cathars. In this beautiful Cathar village we can admire several buildings, as the house of St. Dominic, where he lived from 1207 to 1215, although now it is reformed a lot, it formed part of the castle of Fanjeaux, built next to the Church of the Assumption. There is also a niche with the Gothic arch where Saint Dominic is depicted in a beautiful mosaic, and a stone cross of Teutonic style with the hand of God carved in its center. After that we will visit the Monastery of Prouilhe, the birthplace of the first Dominicans. Lunch in the Monastery and departure for Carcassonne. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 7 CARCASSONNE – MARSEILLE - GENOA

Breakfast. In the morning we will visit Carcassonne, famous for its walled town. It was one of the places where Saint Dominic preached. It is a medieval architectural ensemble restored by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc in the nineteenth century and declared a World Heritage Site in 1997. We will see the Cathedral built in the thirteenth century in Gothic style by order of St. Louis of France; It was built over the domus of the first century, and it was the fortress that housed the viscounts of Carcassonne. Built in the early twelfth century it had several modifications later, in 1229 it became a seneschalship by order of the kingdom of France. From 1240 to 1250, an important restauration to strengthen the wall was carried out; round towers, advanced Barbican to the gateway and the moat were incorporated. Lunch. Departure for Marseilles, one of the most important tourist cities in France. It is the country’s third largest city and it is known for its historical importance and beautiful landscapes. We will visit the Marseille Cathedral (Notre-Dame de la Garde) and the Abbey of St. Victor. Then we will visit the Convent de la Sainte Baume where we will know the figure of Mary Magdalene better and pray at the Grotto. Departure for Genoa. Dinner and accommodation.

DAY 8 GENOA – PARMA – BOLOGNA

Breakfast and departure for Parma. We will visit the city with La Plaza del Duomo. The artistic heart of Parma is an architectural masterpiece of the Middle Ages, dominated by the Cathedral, the Baptistry and the Episcopal Palace. Lunch. Departure for Bologna. Dinner and accommodation.
DAY 9 BOLOGNA - FLORENCE

**Breakfast.** In the morning we will visit the Plaza Mayor, San Petronio, the University, the old town with its arcades, the Neptune Fountain and the church of San Francesco. After that we will admire the Church of Saint Dominic where we will see the Ark of St. Dominic. Great artists have been working in the tomb of Saint for three centuries. Also we will visit the chapter hall and the room where he died. The Holy Eucharist. **Lunch.** Departure for Florence. Arrival. **Dinner and accommodation.**

DIA 10º FLORENCE – EXCURSION TO PISA

**Breakfast.** In the morning we visit this city, the birthplace of the Renaissance. We will see the Church of Santa Croce (the tomb of Michelangelo and the High Altar). In the Cathedral of Santa Maria dei Fiori we will admire the dome of Brunelleschi, Giotto’s Bell Tower and the Baptistry with Ghiberti’s bronze doors. After that we will see the Piazza della Signoria, the Vecchio bridge and the Museum of San Marcos, where the bedrooms of the Friars are decorated with frescoes of Blessed Fra Angelico. After that we will see the Church of Santa Maria Novella. **Lunch.** Departure for Pisa where we will visit the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the Baptistery, the Duomo and the National Museum of San Mateo where we will see the polyptych of Saint Dominic. Return to Florence. **Dinner and accommodation.**

DAY 11 FLORENCE – SIENA – ROME

**Breakfast.** In the morning we will climb up to the viewpoint of Michelangelo, where we will see the city in all its glory. Departure for Siena, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Free time to stroll around the Piazza del Campo where the Torre dei Mangia is situated and to stroll through the medieval alleys. We will visit the Cathedral, a representative example of the Italian Gothic architecture, the Church of Saint Dominic, the Sanctuary House of St. Catherine of Siena and the Oratory. **Lunch.** In the afternoon departure for Rome. Transfer to the hotel. **Dinner and accommodation.**

DAY 12º ROME

**Breakfast.** Transfer to Vatican city to attend the Papal Audience (Wednesday) or Papal Blessing (Sunday). After that we will admire the Vatican Museums, where we will see Greek statues, Etruscan vases, funerary objects, tapestries, mostly of Flemish origin, the famous Sistine Chapel with paintings by Michelangelo and many other works of art. **Lunch** in restaurant near Vatican. In the afternoon we will realize a panoramic city tour to see the city landmarks. We will go to the Basilica of San Peter In Chains (Moses by Michelangelo), this Basilica of the V century houses the relics of the chains that bound St. Peter during his imprisonment in Jerusalem. Transfer to the Basilica of Santa Sabina, General Curia of the Order of Preachers to celebrate the Eucharist and visit it. Transfer to the hotel. **Dinner** in restaurant near the hotel. **Accommodation.**
DAY 13 ROME

**Breakfast.** Early in the morning we will visit the Basilica San Juan de Letran Mayor and the Basilica of San Clemente (archaeological site). Transfer to Vatican to visit the Vatican Museums and the Sistine Chapel. **Lunch.** In the Afternoon we will visit the Church of Sta. Maria Sopra Minerva, the only Gothic church in Rome. It contains a lot of Renaissance treasures, among which is the Chapel Caraffa. In the church St. Catherine of Siena and a great painter Fra Angelico are buried. After that we will discover the "Baroque Rome" to admire the Trevi Fountain, the spectacular Piazza Navona and Piazza of Spain, etc. **Dinner.** Transfer to the hotel. **Accommodation.**

DAY 14º ROME - MADRID

**Breakfast.** Departure for The Papal Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls to celebrate the Eucharist. Then we will visit the catacombs, a labyrinth of galleries with niches and sarcophagi. **Lunch.** Transfer to the Rome airport to depart for Madrid. Arrival and

**END OF SERVICES**

The proposed itinerary can be modified according to the interests and characteristics of each group. Transfers from any cities of Spain or any other country can be arranged. We will adapt the pilgrimage to the needs of each group.