

GRAIL HAVEN

RETREATS - SOUTH OF FRANCE
MAY - JULY 2018

The mysteries and ancient wisdoms encoded in the Languedoc, South of France is our focus for these retreats. Here within spectacular scenery and enigmatic villages is held a history of spiritual enlightenment maintained by its early French Mystery Schools. Mary Magdalene is ever present here. Dedications to her teachings and healing practices are a constant reminder of her life after the Crucifixion. Temples to Black Madonnas, Isis and Venus remind us of an earlier blossoming of the Sacred Feminine. The Cathars with their extraordinary spiritual courage and profound understanding of the True Christianity are remembered and venerated within their dramatic sanctuaries. For nearly a millennium the Knights Templar have been honoured for their arcane wisdom and esoteric knowledge, leaving a legacy of their heroic protection of the Holy Grail.

GYPSY FESTIVAL, MARY MAGDALENE & CATHARS

DAY 1 – 21st MAY: Arrive at Toulouse Airport France.

Evening meal in the oldest working Medieval City in Europe, CARCASSONNE.

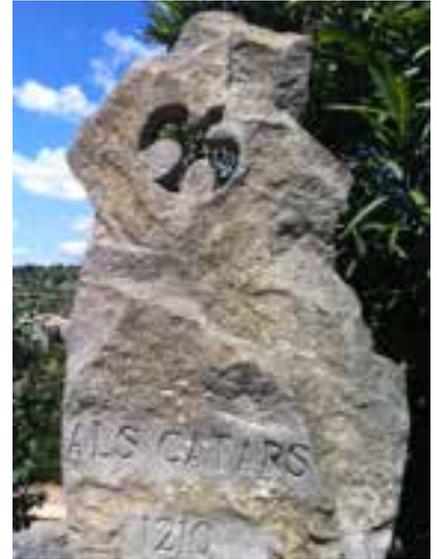
DAY 2 – Morning meditation and talk of journey to come. Visit to the healing springs of Mary Magdalene. Picnic at springs. On to the Cathar village of Minerve with its Monument to the martyrdom of the Cathars.

DAY 3 – Journey to Arles, French Impressionist Van Gogh lived and worked here. En route we stop to venerate the Black Madonna of Pezanas. Talk and meditation on the Cult of the Black Madonnas.

DAY 4 – We spend the day at the annual Gypsy Festival. All the colour, sound and spectacle of a unique festival meets our eyes and our senses. The Holy statue of Sara, Queen of the Gypsies, and possibly Mary Magdalene's Daughter, is brought from the candle lit crypt.

The procession is led by gypsies on the white horses of the Camargue.

They parade through the streets to end up at the sea where Sara is blessed in the waters. This Christian festival eclipses the older ceremony of the feminine Goddess at Stes Maries de la Mer.



DAY 5 – We visit the relics of Mary Magdalene, authenticated by Rome in the 12th Century. From the Cathedral of the Magdalene we journey into the hills to her Cave of Solitude to be bathed in the vibration of the Magdalene. Here we meditate upon her gentle power.

DAY 6 - We visit the spectacular mountainous area of the Cathar Castles. At the 'last sanctuary of the Cathars' we climb to Montsegur – Mountain of Secrets.

DAY 7 – Rennes le Chateau was made famous by the Di Vinci Code. Here lies sacred geometry, the pentacle in the land At Alet les bains we visit the house of the visionary, Nostradamus. We also visit Rennes le Bain a Druidic sacred river.

DAY 8 – We journey to the famous Black Madonna of Rocamadour. En route we visit Cahor with its Holy Coif- the clothe said to have covered Christ's head in the tomb.

DAY 9 – Set in a beautiful gorge and cliff woodland with shrines of the 12 Stations of the Cross, we follow in the wake of thousands of Pilgrims of ancient times. This was the third biggest Pilgrim sanctuary in the world.

Here we experience the gentle but healing power of one of the most revered, healing Black Madonnas of Europe.

DAY 10 – Leave from Toulouse airport.



THE MYSTERIES OF THE LANGUEDOC

DAY 1 – June 14th: Arrive Toulouse.

Evening Meal in the ancient City of Carcassonne, a former Cathar sanctuary.

DAY 2 – Today we experience the sacred springs of Mary Magdalene set in beautiful woodlands. Time here to relax and reflect on the element water. We travel on to one of the most majestic sites in the South of France, Minerve. After an heroic defense of their sanctuary, the Cathar population was martyred for their beliefs. A monument to their courage remains an enduring memorial.

DAY 3 – Rennes le Chateau is described as the greatest mystery of the 20th Century. We also visit Rennes le Bain with its Temple to the Goddess ISIS. Allet le Bain with its powerful vortex of water energy, and the house of visionary Nostradamus.

DAY 4 – We enjoy a relaxing day with talks and discussion in the morning, followed by a visit to an 8th Century Abbey and Monastery.

*This spectacular place was the source of the ancient terracotta tiles that we used in the building of the Grail Haven Labyrinth.

DAY 5 – To Montsegur, made legendary as the last refuge of the Cathars. This ancient fortress is the backdrop for many novels and historic works. The village Church holds a mysterious Black Madonna.



DAY 6, 7, 8 – ARLES via the Templar City of Aigues Morte.

Staying in the Roman City of Arles, made famous by the French Impressionist Painters, we visit the Druidic Forest of Baume to the Cave of Solitude. Here Magdalene spent her last years and Ascended from this extraordinary sanctuary. We visit her relics held in the nearby Church. A truly life changing experience.

DAY 8 - Returning to Grail Haven we visit the world famous Black Madonna of Pezanas.

DAY 9 - Puilarens the most beautiful and spectacular of all the Cathar sanctuaries.

Our 'last supper' will be held in the evening at Grail Haven, Escales.

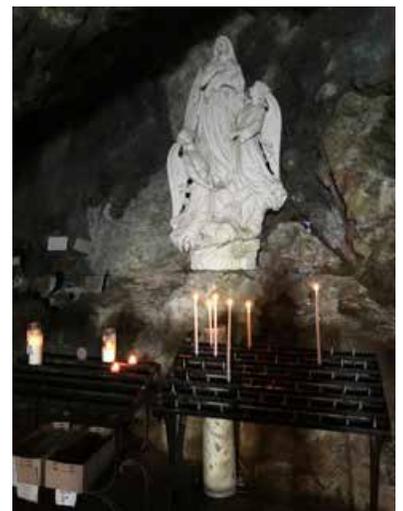
DAY 10 – Return to Toulouse airport.

WHITE MADONNA – MAGENTA MADONNA – BLACK MADONNA

DAY 1- July 4th – Arrive Toulouse
Evening meal in Carcassonne.

DAY 2 – Visit to Mary Magdalene's healing springs – picnic lunch at the springs.

On to the Cathar site set in breathtaking scenery deep in a gorge, the village of Minerve where we see the Dove Monument to the 210 Cathars martyred in this village.



DAY 3, 4, 5 – We journey to the Black Madonna of Rocamadour. Set high in a stunning gorge is the Basilica housing the Black Madonna and alongside the woodland labyrinth with the 12 Stations of the Cross.

A remarkable and holy site, an ancient pilgrim path, a heavenly energy. En route we visit the town of Cahor where we find the Holy Coif, a clothe said to have covered Christ's head in the tomb, 12th Century.

We accommodate for 2 nights overlooking the gorge, a few steps away from the Basilica of the Black Madonna.

DAY 6 – The Di Vinci Code made famous the Magdalene Church at Rennes le Chateau. Rich with ancient temples and sacred geometry, we spend the day here.



We also visit the house of the visionary alchemist Nostradamus.

Nearby are the stunningly beautiful sites of Rennes le Bain and Allet le Bain, with its spa, and picturesque rivers revered as sacred places by the Druids.

DAY 7 – A day visiting Cathar Castles especially Montsegur heralded as the place of the 'Last Stand of the Cathars'.

DAYS 8, 9, 10 – Staying in the heart of Lourdes we are in the vibration of the Virgin White Mary and Saint Bernadette of Lourdes. The grotto where Bernadette received 14 visions is holy ground. Nearby you can bathe in the waters of Lourdes with its healing vibration. Journey Ends day 10, ex Toulouse.

END OF RETREAT

Gerry and Richard have taken sacred journeys for over twenty years. Join us as we journey again through the mystical Languedoc.

Price for each journey: A\$4,400 – GBP2,600 – Euros 2,995 *Based on twin share – Single supplement available on request.

A non refundable deposit of 20% secures your place.

*Early bookings are advisable.

Price includes all accommodation, all breakfasts, evening meals at Grail Haven. All on land transport, workshops and talks.

Not included: your own travel insurance (compulsory)
International airfare ex home country. Some evening meals, (when not at Grail Haven) lunches, usually picnic style (approximate cost Euro 5 per person). Entry fees to sites.

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