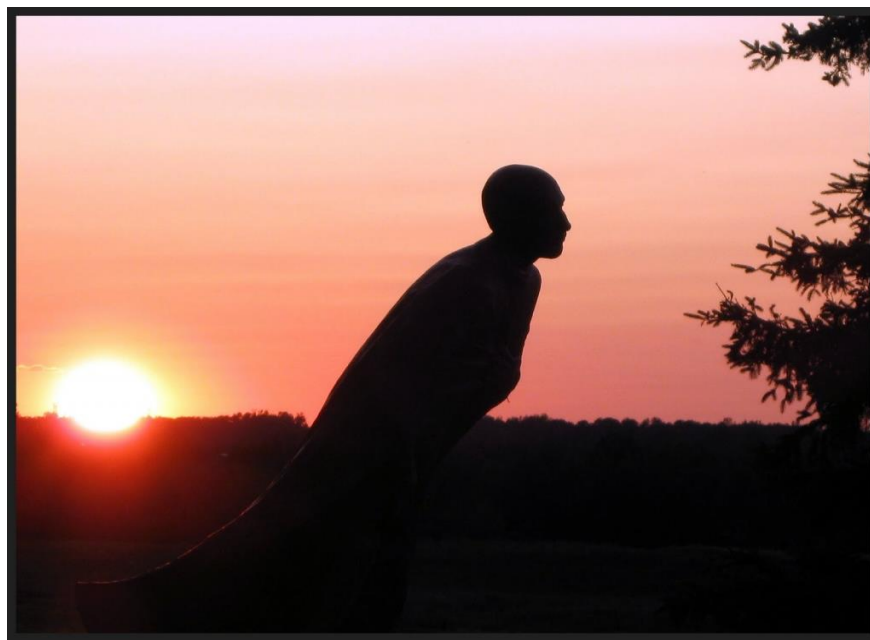




## ***In the Footsteps of Saint Ignatius Loyola***

*An Ignatian pilgrimage for members of the Jesuit Schools Network*

**June 26 - July 5, 2023**



*In collaboration with*



*Camino Ignaciano*

*WD*  
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## El camino del peregrino – The Pilgrim’s Way

### June 26th - Bilbao / Loyola

After meeting at the airport in Bilbao and traveling to Loyola on a Camino Ignaciano bus, we settle into the Casa de Espiritualidad Jesús y María, a retreat house located near the Shrine of Saint Ignatius Loyola. Dinner is on our own, followed by an orientation meeting with Fr. José Luis Iriberry, S.J., our pilgrimage guide. [Overnight in Loyola.](#)

### June 27th - Loyola / Azpeitia

*4.5 miles: Loyola - Azpeitia - Loyola*

We visit sites in Loyola and Azpeitia that were instrumental in Ignatius’ early life, as well as during his convalescence and conversion. We conclude our day with Mass in Ignatius’ room of conversion. [Overnight in Loyola.](#)



#### The Conversion of Saint Ignatius Loyola

After being wounded in battle, Inigo was carried home to Azpeitia where he first stayed at the Hospital de la Magdalena. During his recuperation at the family castle, Inigo would make short pilgrimages to the Ermita de Olatz. It was while convalescing in the family castle that Inigo experienced the beginnings of his conversion.

### June 28th - Loyola / Aránzazu

*11 miles: Loyola - Aránzazu - Araia - Loyola*

Ignatius began his pilgrimage to Montserrat by stopping in Aránzazu to pray. We begin today in Aránzazu and continue on foot to Araia, tracing his same route. [Overnight in Loyola.](#)



#### The Journey to Montserrat

Ignatius, starting from his father’s house, set out upon his journey on horseback. His brother desired to accompany him as far as Oña and during the journey was persuaded by the Saint to pass one night of watching at the shrine of Our Blessed Lady at Aránzazu. (*Autobiography*)

## June 29th – Loyola / Javier

*7.5 miles Loyola - Laguardia - Lapuebla - Navarrete - Javier*

We take a brief detour from Ignatius' route to visit Javier, the birthplace of Saint Francis Xavier. Once we arrive at Javier from our day's walk, we tour the Castle of Saint Francis Xavier and celebrate Mass there. [Overnight in Javier.](#)



[The Castle of Saint Francis Xavier](#)

In the eleventh century, Esabierre, a Basque name that means new house, was an isolated defensive tower. Fernando de Aragon gave the town and fortress to the King of Navarre in 1223 as a guarantee for a loan that could not be repaid. This is where Francisco Xavier was born on April 7th in 1506.

## June 30th – Javier / Verdu / Montserrat

*3.6 miles Verdú - Tárrega*

On our way to Montserrat, we visit Verdú and the shrine of Saint Peter Claver, where we celebrate Mass. From there we continue to Montserrat, the intended destination of Ignatius' pilgrimage. We conclude the day with the Benedictine Monks and Evening Prayer. [Overnight in Montserrat.](#)



**Montserrat**

He proceeded to the Benedictine shrine of Our Lady of Montserrat, made a general confession, and knelt all night in vigil before Our Lady's altar, following the rites of chivalry. He left his sword and knife at the altar, went out and gave away all his fine clothes to a poor man, and dressed himself in rough clothes with sandals and a staff. (*Autobiography*)

## July 1st – Montserrat / Manresa

### *8 miles Montserrat - Manresa*

After morning Mass with the Benedictine monks, we follow Ignatius' way to Manresa from Casteligali across the River Cardoner to the cave where Ignatius wrote the Spiritual Exercises. [Overnight in Manresa.](#)



### **Manresa**

He continued towards Barcelona but stopped along the River Cardoner at a town called Manresa. He stayed in a cave outside the town, intending to linger only a few days, but he remained for ten months. He spent hours each day in prayer and worked in a hospice. It was while here that the ideas for what are now known as the Spiritual Exercises began to take shape. It was also on the banks of this river that he had a vision which is regarded as the most significant in his life. Ignatius never revealed exactly what the vision was, but it seems to have been an encounter with God as He really is so that all creation was seen in a new light, an experience that enabled Ignatius to find God in all things.

## July 2<sup>nd</sup> - Manresa

### *5 miles Manresa*

We spend the day in Manresa, the village which Ignatius considered a kind of novitiate in the things of the Spirit. After a walk to the Viladoris Cathedral, we will receive our “certification of pilgrimage” and share an evening of reflection together. [Overnight in Manresa.](#)



### **The Manresa Cave**

Ignatius came down on foot from Montserrat to Manresa. It was the year 1522. Here he spent eleven months, a time of pivotal importance for his life and for that which would later be the Company of Jesus. His privileged place of prayer was the Cave. It is a cavity over the river Cardoner, excavated by the fluvial erosion during the Tertiary. The experience lived here by Saint Ignatius was the origin of his book Spiritual Exercises.

## July 3rd – Manresa / Barcelona

### *2.5 miles Barcelona*

After a morning of prayer and reflection, and Mass in the Manresa Cave, we travel to Barcelona. In Barcelona, we visit sites in which Ignatius prepared to go the Holy Land, and then studied after his return to Barcelona from the Holy Land. [Overnight in Barcelona.](#)



### **Barcelona**

He finally arrived at Barcelona, took a boat to Italy, and ended up in Rome where he met Pope Adrian VI and requested permission to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Once he arrived in the Holy Land he wanted to remain, but was told by the Franciscan superior who had authority over Catholics there that the situation was too dangerous.



By now he was 33 years old and determined to study for the priesthood. However, he was ignorant of Latin, a prerequisite to university studies in those days. So, he started back to school studying Latin grammar with young boys in a school in Barcelona. There he begged for his food and shelter.

## July 4th – Barcelona

Free day in Barcelona. [Overnight in Barcelona.](#)

## July 5th – Departures



Our Team	
 <p><b>Fr. José Luis Irriberri, S.J.</b>, is our guide in Spain. In 2011 he began the creation and promotion of the Camino Ignaciano on behalf of the Society of Jesus. He currently serves as Director of the Pilgrim's Office and is on the San Ignacio Faculty of Tourism and Hotel Management at Ramon Llull University.</p>	 <p><b>Diann Meek</b> has over 25 years of travel background with a focus on corporate planning and youth group arrangements. A member of the Whittaker and DePrez team, she has experience in travel in Asia, the Caribbean and Europe. Diann serves as our travel agent.</p>

*The cost for the JSN Camino Ignaciano, "In the Footsteps of Saint Ignatius Loyola," is \$1500 per participant. The cost includes our guide, housing, pilgrimage meals, luggage transfers, private bus transfers, and visits. It does not include flights, other travel arrangements, trip insurance, souvenirs, or non-pilgrimage meals.*

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