



Lourdes Update

October 2021

What's New?

The Rosary Square with clearly marked 'islands'

Currently pilgrimages or groups are allocated to a numbered island which holds a maximum of 50 pilgrims

Pilgrims remain in their allocated island and only the head of the procession moves

Clearly marked one-way routes throughout the Domain

No (current) access into Grotto



Current Travel (to France)

- All travellers must be double vaccinated
- All travellers must have a signed 'Declaration of Honour' – available online but paper copy provided by tour operator with tickets
- All travellers must have digital or paper covid pass
- All travellers must have valid travel documents – passport/visa if required
- Masks worn in airports and during flight
- 48 hours before returning to the UK all travellers must complete a passenger locator form online (the tour operators completed these on our behalf)
- On return to UK all travelers must have pre-booked a day 2 lateral flow test and bring the reference number with them as it is required for the passenger locator form

Aircraft and coaches filter air every 7 minutes



Current rules in Lourdes

- All pilgrims must be double vaccinated – no access to Accueils without proof of vaccination
- All pilgrims must have a valid covid pass – either digitally on a smartphone or in paper form. Passes may be requested in any bar, restaurant or hotel
- Masks must be worn in all indoor places – shops and hotels etc.
- Masks can be removed when sitting down to eat/drink
- Table service only in bars & cafes
- Masks must be worn **at all times** within the Domain which is classed as 'One Church'
- Only one person or one household in elevators



Accueil St. Frai & Notre Dame

- All pilgrims including volunteers must be double vaccinated
- Masks must be worn at all times
- Pilgrims must use their designated elevator – strictly adhered to
- Pilgrims must remain within their dedicated area, not visit other floors
- Hand sanitiser is provided and available at each touch point – doors/elevators etc. These touch points are currently cleaned three times a day
- Voitures are labelled and assigned to individuals for their stay
- Blankets are single use - 'clean' and 'dirty bins' are available

'Health Charter' (Cleaning protocol) is available online –

https://www.lourdes-france.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Charte_Sanitaire_EN_V6.pdf

Accueils (cont.)

- One bathroom per one 'covid unit'
- 'One covid' unit is either one person or one household
- 6 bedded rooms can accommodate two individuals **or** one household
(pilgrimage medical officer can define 'household')
- At least one room is reserved for isolation purposes if required
- All windows to be opened every morning for a designated period of time to allow flow of fresh air
- Use of common areas ie. Roof terraces – clean touchpoints prior to and after use
- All aircon filters have been updated (HEPA filters)
- Cost remains per person – no additional cost despite reduced capacity

St. Frai – currently capacity (half floor) 21

Notre Dame – current capacity (half floor) 35



Future Plans

- The Grotto will open with obligatory use of hand sanitizer on admission
- The Baths will not open as previously but will continue with Gestes de L'Eau:
Entry to the Baths up to 3 people,
Water from the Spring will be provided for hand washing and drinking
Prayer
(this is a beautiful experience and some say preferable to immersion in baths)
- Hopes to increase capacity within Accueils – not yet introduced

Pilgrims who show signs/symptoms of Covid

- Immediate isolation and lateral flow test (tour operator will assist)
Negative lateral flow – no further action other than observe
Positive lateral flow – continue isolation – all meals in room
lateral flow test test room-mates
roommates move out

Positive PCR

- Isolate for 7 days
- All meals in room
- Correct use of PPE if providing assistance
- Use of Martha & Mary if pilgrimage unable to provide care

Accueils have 3 emergency isolation rooms

Hotels have at least one emergency isolation room



Recommendations

- Everyone joining pilgrimage must be double vaccinated
- Test all pilgrims immediately prior to departure to ensure covid free travel
- No one should join pilgrimage from other areas
- Each pilgrimage appoints a 'Covid Manager' to liaise with Accueil/Hotel/Sanctuary and check all covid passes prior to departure
- Appoint a small team of volunteers, (before departure) including at least one nurse and two or three carers, who are willing to remain in Lourdes beyond the end of the pilgrimage to assist any pilgrims isolating and accompany them home following negative result
- Youth Sections – to appoint small team as above, parents/family may be flown out to take over care of individuals remaining in Lourdes