

Sophia Services presents ...

In Search of Knights Templar in Portugal

April 21—May 5, 2018

with **Sarnia Guiton,**
João Fiandeiro Santos
and **Peter Moore**

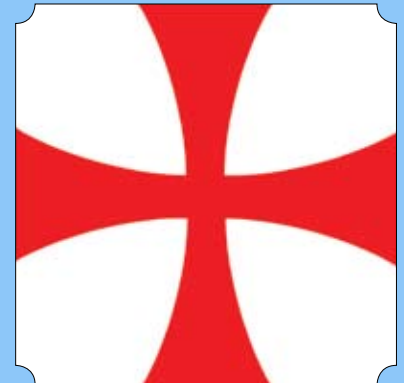
The Knights Templar are well known for their activities in Jerusalem and the Holy Land in the Middle Ages following the First Crusade. Their demise in 1307 is also well known. What is not so well known is the belief that their activities in Portugal, working with Bernard of Clairvaux and Portuguese Templar Kings over several generations, formed a Kingdom of Conscience with laws that are echoed in Rudolf Steiner's Threefold Social Order.

When the Knights Templar in France were arrested on the night of Friday, October 13, 1307, those who could fled to Scotland and Portugal where they were protected. King Denis I of Portugal refused to arrest the Knights and as a compromise their name was eventually changed to the Order of Christ. Their history is profound in Portugal and we will visit the major sites in the country. Several Templar structures are still standing and in use, others are now ruined yet evocative of their times and work.

We will be guided by Anthroposophical friends, João Fiandeiro and Peter Moore throughout our visit. They are deeply knowledgeable about the Templars and their history. (www.templarknights.eu) We have chosen not to go during the re-enactment Knights Templar Festival for practical and financial reasons. Celebrating crowds do not offer the opportunity for a contemplative mood that we might wish to create. Portugal is a warm, attractive country, with much to offer which is not well-known.

For further information please contact:
Sarnia Guiton 604-740-0676 sarnia@sophiaservices.ca

see over



In Search of Knights Templar in Portugal

April 21—May 5, 2018

- Sat Apr 21** Arrive Lisbon – transfers to hotel throughout the day – B & B (2 nights)
- Sun Apr 22** Tour & exploration of Lisbon
- Mon Apr 23** Tour of Sintra – visit historic center and guided tour of Quinta Regaleira – late afternoon drive to Tomar – Templários Hotel B & B (8 nights)
- Tue Apr 24** Visit Quinta da Cardiga, early Knights Templar farm with 12th century tower & abandoned village. Afternoon – guided tour of Knights Templar Castle & Convent of Christ.
- Wed Apr 25** Free morning – Tomar weekly Farmers' Market. – afternoon guided walking tour of Tomar.
- Thu Apr 26** Visit to Monsanto, ancient stone village with ruined Knights Templar castle and stunning views.
- Fri Apr 27** Visit to beautiful lakeside village of Dornes with five-sided Knights Templar tower – visit to Fatima and the Catholic pilgrimage Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima.
- Sat Apr 28** Visit to UNESCO World Heritage sites of Batalha Abbey and Alcobaça Monastery – lunch at old fishing port of Nazaré, famous for its fresh fish and seafood.
- Sun Apr 29** Visit to Knights Templar salt pans at Rio Maior, then medieval city of Óbidos.
- Mon Apr 30** Free day with optional guided walks, including walk on the Portuguese Caminho de Santiago.
- Tue May 1** Check out of Templários Hotel – drive through Alentejo countryside to Evora – guided walk around historic city – hotel B & B (3 nights)
- Wed May 2** Day tour exploring stone circles and megaliths in the area known to the Knights Templar.
- Thu May 3** Visit to ancient city of Monsaraz – weather permitting, star gazing in the designated Alqueva Dark Sky Area.
- Fri May 4** Check out of hotel – visit Evora Bone Chapel – drive to Lisbon, check in hotel B & B (1 night).
- Sat May 5** Transfers to Lisbon airport throughout the day.

Land only: US\$ 2010. This may be subject to fluctuation of currencies and unexpected fuel surcharges. Single supplement \$200

Booking deadline December 6, 2017. Non-refundable deposit of \$400 will hold your place in the group. Full payment due 8 weeks before departure: February 28, 2018

Price includes: transfers between airport and hotel in Lisbon – all accommodation and breakfasts – all transport – admissions as included in the itinerary – English-speaking guides throughout.

Price does not include: International flights – travel insurance (medical is mandatory) – lunches and dinners – tips, since they are not assumed in Portugal, although always welcome – the occasional optional events and admissions as opportunity arises.

For further information please contact:
Sarnia Guiton 604-740-0676 sarnia@sophiaservices.ca

