


**PRÉFÈTE
DES HAUTES-
PYRÉNÉES**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

 **LOURDES**
Cœur des Pyrénées
VILLE DE LOURDES



LOURDES
—  **SANCTUAIRE**



**LEON
XIV**

**FRANCE 2026
25-28 SEPTEMBRE**

VISIT OF POPE LEO XIV,
to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes,
26 and 27 September

Press conference - 4 September 2026

THREE ORGANISATIONS, ONE COORDINATED APPROACH

The Diocese of Tarbes-Lourdes and the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes:

- **Bishop Jean-Marc MICAS**, Bishop of the Diocese of Tarbes-Lourdes;
- **Father Michel DAUBANES**, Rector of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The City of Lourdes:

- **Mr Thierry LAVIT**, Mayor of Lourdes;

State services in the Hautes-Pyrénées:

- **Ms Sibylle SAMOYAU**, Prefect of the Hautes-Pyrénées.

AN APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO FRANCE

The Vatican has confirmed Pope Leo XIV's apostolic journey to France from 25 to 28 September 2026, including a visit to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes:

Saturday 26 September

- 19:05 - Arrival of the Pope in the Hautes-Pyrénées;
- 19:40 - Prayer at the Grotto of the Apparitions (entry pass required);

Sunday 27 September

- 11:00 - Sunday Mass on the Prairie (entry pass required);
- 15:30 - Meeting with hospitalité volunteers and sick pilgrims at the Accueil Notre-Dame, followed by an address;
- 21:00 - Marian Torchlight Procession, followed by an address (entry pass required).

HISTORIC ATTENDANCE AT THE KEY EVENTS OF THE VISIT

To help everyone fully experience the event and facilitate entry to the site, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes introduced a registration form over the summer for the key events of the visit. **Registration is now closed.**

Large numbers of pilgrims will gather over the weekend for the key events of the visit:

- 50,000 for prayer at the Grotto of the Apparitions at Massabielle on 26 September;
- 150,000 for Sunday Mass on the Prairie on the morning of 27 September;
- 50,000 for the Torchlight Procession on the evening of 27 September.

The Sanctuary has already contacted everyone who registered to collect the information needed to organise their welcome. This will enable better logistical planning and ensure the best possible arrangements for welcoming pilgrims on the day of the visit.

SANCTUARY OPENING HOURS DURING THE WEEKEND

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes will be open to visitors at the following times during the weekend:

- Friday 25 September: 06:00 to midnight;
- Saturday 26 September: 06:00 to 01:00;
- Sunday 27 September: 05:00 to 01:00.

Please note: on Saturday 26 September, access to the Sanctuary will be restricted to people holding an entry pass issued following registration. The same restriction will apply on Sunday 27 September.

Please be reminded that no overnight stays or temporary installations of any kind (camping, bedding or bivouacs) are permitted within the Sanctuary.

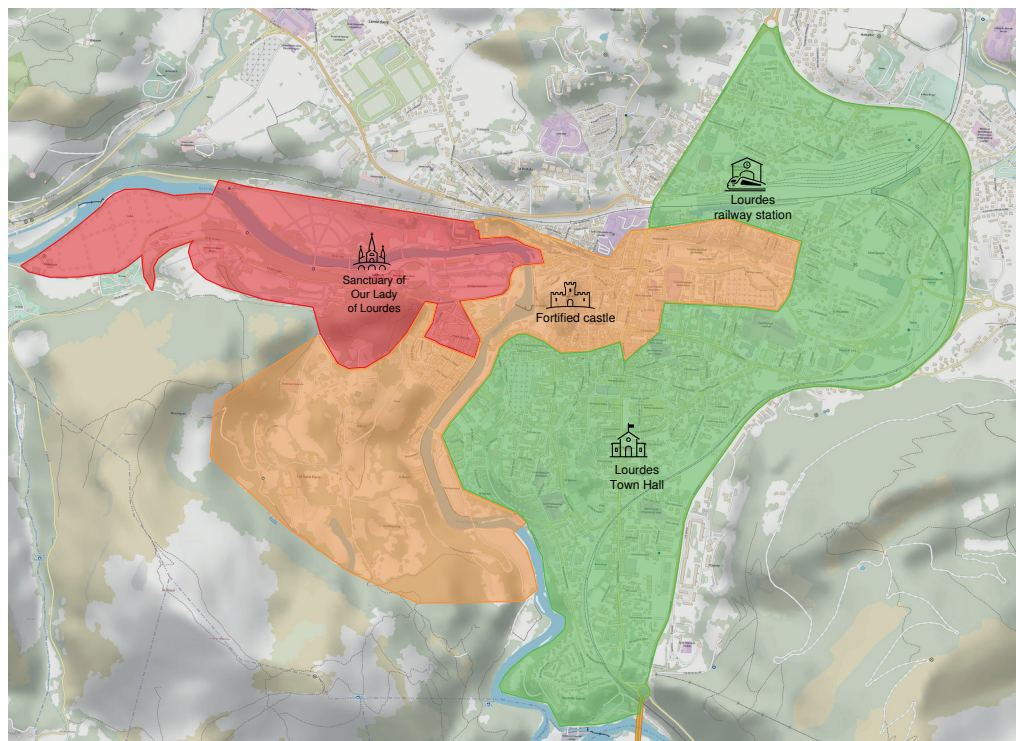
A BOOST TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY FROM THE PAPAL VISIT

This visit will benefit the economy of the City of Lourdes and the Hautes-Pyrénées department.

All the organisations involved are doing everything possible to generate positive economic benefits for the area, while maximising security at the event and minimising disruption for all residents of the department. Public services will continue to operate (healthcare, emergency services, residents' access to their homes, etc.).

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF LOURDES

Vehicle traffic
restriction zone
from 10:00 on Saturday
26 September to 10:00
on Monday 28 September.



KEY

RED ZONE

→ Access restricted to people accredited by the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes.

ORANGE ZONE

→ On Saturday, traffic is permitted until 14:00 only for residents or professionals with a vehicle permit. No traffic is allowed after 14:00.

GREEN ZONE

→ Access restricted to residents and professionals with a vehicle permit, with no time restrictions.

Source: Hautes-Pyrénées Prefecture
Base map: © IGN-SCAN25®
Date: 31 August 2026

GETTING HOME OR TO WORK DURING THE WEEKEND

To drive within the City of Lourdes from 10:00 on Saturday 26 September to 10:00 on Monday 28 September, **residents and local professionals must obtain a vehicle permit sticker and display it on the inside of the windscreen.**

Vehicle permit stickers will be distributed from **Wednesday 9 September 2026 to Thursday 24 September 2026 inclusive**, during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday: 08:30 to 12:00 and 13:30 to 17:30 (17:00 on Fridays);
- Saturdays: 08:30 to 12:00.

Residents should go to the wedding room at Lourdes Town Hall (Villa Gazagne). Employers should go to the Commerce Department, rue des 4 Frères Soulas (below Place Peyramale).

HOW TO REACH THE SANCTUARY

For pilgrims travelling independently, **no parking will be provided in or around Lourdes**, except for designated parking for people with reduced mobility and two-wheeled vehicles (motorcycles, bicycles, scooters, etc.).

On Sunday 27 September, shuttle buses will transport pilgrims from car parks near Tarbes. The car park locations, shuttle frequency, drop-off points and walking distances to the Sanctuary will be published on the websites of the Sanctuary, Lourdes Town Hall and the Prefecture.

A dedicated car park for people with reduced mobility will be available in Lourdes (terrain Abadie, “Petit Couvent”), on presentation of proof of disability (a disability card or mobility inclusion card). Parking for two-wheeled vehicles will also be provided at Le Tydos in Lourdes.

ACCESS CHECKS FOR EVERYONE'S SAFETY

The following measures will be implemented to ensure the security of the event:

- security arrangements comparable to those for any large gathering (under the Vigipirate plan at the “heightened vigilance” level);
- the full list of prohibited items will be published on the websites of the organisations involved and shared with all registered pilgrims;
- pilgrims should allow for waiting times at the various checkpoints and bring small bags that are open and easy to inspect. **Lightweight folding stools are permitted.**

PROHIBITED ITEMS

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND THE SAFETY OF OTHERS,
THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE PROHIBITED
WITHIN THE SANCTUARY AND ITS
IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS (CONTROLLED AREAS):



DRONES



FIREARMS



BLADED
WEAPONS



TOOLS



LASER
POINTERS



FIREWORKS AND
PYROTECHNICS



SMOKE
DEVICES



AEROSOLS



GLASS
BOTTLES



ALCOHOL



GAS
CYLINDERS



MEGAPHONES



LUGGAGE AND
SUITCASES



CAMPING
EQUIPMENT



SCOOTERS



ANIMALS

ALSO PROHIBITED: ANY ITEM CARRIED WITHOUT JUSTIFICATION THAT COULD BE USED AS A WEAPON OR PROJECTILE, OR THAT COULD POSE A RISK TO OTHER PEOPLE.



**LEON
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USEFUL CONTACTS

Hautes-Pyrénées Prefecture Communications Department

pref-communication@hautes-pyrenees.gouv.fr

06 13 23 07 80 / 06 01 36 66 21

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes Communications Department

communication@lourdes-france.com

05 62 42 78 01

Official website for Pope Leo XIV's visit to France

<https://www.lourdes-france.com>

<https://www.pape-france.fr/>

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