

# Pilgrimages

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# About Pilgrimages

- A pilgrimage is a long religious journey or search of great moral significance.
- Pilgrimages were first made to places connected with the birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.
- Pilgrimages were a way to spread the beliefs of the monasteries to the outside world.
- The crusades to the holy land are also considered to be mass armed pilgrimages.

# Middle Ages

- Church encouraged people to make pilgrimages to special holy places called shrines.
- Surviving descriptions of Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land date from the 4th century.
- It was believed that if you prayed to shrines you might be forgiven for your sins and have more chance of going to heaven.
- 10<sup>th</sup> century on attracted people looking for miraculous cures from saints.
- Pilgrimages also began to be made to Rome and other sites associated with the Apostles, Saints and Christian martyrs, as well as to places where there have been apparitions of the Virgin Mary.