Every evening, when dusk falls and covers the town, thousands of pilgrims come out together to walk along and sing, candle in hand, setting off from the grotto of apparitions to the esplanade of the Our Lady of the Rosary basilica. The atmosphere is one of joy, packed with energy and palpable emotion. It is the most popular moment at Lourdes and the highlight of every day there. Whether as a participant or a spectator, you cannot help being moved by this “magical” moment which unites men and women from the four corners of the earth. It is impossible to not be carried away by the power and beauty of all these lights which easily illuminate the night sky beyond the Sanctuary.

Every day, from April to October, from 9pm (duration: 1h30). Candles are available from the town or in the Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes is open 24/7 and is free of charge.

www.lourdes-france.org

Magical contact
www.lourdes-infotourisme.com
THE LAKE OF A THOUSAND REFLECTIONS

It only takes a few minutes out of the centre of town to come across a beautiful, vast glacial lake. It stretches out over 50 hectares in the midst of a pure, natural area and provides a haven of peace as well as a setting for many outdoor activities such as walking, mountain biking, fishing, paddleboarding or golf. It is the perfect place for a picnic or a fun country getaway with children, but also provides the opportunity to sample the culinary specialities from the Southwest in the two local restaurants on the pier or at the golf course.

It is worthy to note that the latter offers an 18-hole golf course which attracts novices and enthusiasts alike.

Located to the west of the town, in the direction of Pau. In July and August you will find “Lourdes beach”. Free of charge.

www.lpgc.fr

THE FORTIFIED CASTLE AND ITS MUSEUM

The historically listed fortified castle of Lourdes, built on a rocky peak overlooking the town, is a witness to a medieval past marked by the legendary Charlemagne and houses the Pyrenean Museum. The museum is a must if you wish to discover not only the traditions inherited in our mountains but also the history of the keep. The “icing on the crenels” would be the panoramic view over the town, the Sanctuary and the Pyrenees which is simply breathtaking. Make sure you don’t forget your camera!

Located in the city centre. Open throughout the year (except 01/01 – 01/11 – 11/11 and 25/12).

www.chateaufort-lourdes.fr

PIC DU JER FUNICULAR RAILWAY

Easily recognizable with its large cross lit up by night, the Pic du Jer is a unique mountain peak offering a breathtaking view over the town and the Pyrenees. It is undoubtedly one of the most stunning views in the region. The 1000m-high summit is reached on a charming funicular railway which is over a hundred years old. After visiting the grottos – the highest converted grottos in France – a small path leads you along a few minutes to a quaint restaurant with a panoramic terrace. This is also where you can set off on a beautiful walk on a botanical trail through box trees, may, hazel trees… For those on the lookout for a good show and plenty of thrills, this site hosts the Mountain Bike World Cup.

Located to the south of the town, in the direction of Argelès-Gazost.

Open from Spring to mid-November and during the Winter holidays. Mountain biking pass available.

www.picdujer.fr