

Dear Pilgrims:

Enclosed is an information package that should answer any questions you may have. If you still have questions, please contact

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Pilgrimage to Medjugorje and Rome

OCTOBER 3rd to 16th, 2016

Led by Bishop David Motiuk of the Edmonton Eparchy



Welcome to your pilgrimage!

You are looking at a picture of a statue of Our Lady in Tihljina, 30 min. from Medjugorje. Originally, the statue in Medjugorje did not look as nice as a new statue looks today. So the Tihljina statue became associated with Medjugorje,

especially after the pastor of the parish in Medjugorje, Fr Jozo Zovko, who had arrived in Medjugorje a week before the apparitions began, was transferred there.

DAY 1 Monday OCT 03 DEPART EDMONTON

Your flight to Toronto departs at 9 am – please check in no later than 7 am. You will arrive in Toronto at 3 and at 4 the overnight flight leaves to Frankfurt. A small dinner is served during the flight.

DAY 2 Tuesday OCT 04 ARRIVE MEDJUGORJE

Arrival in Frankfurt around 7 am local time. You will go through customs and then have time to enjoy a typical German breakfast if you wish. Wander around and relax until you board the flight to Split at noon. In Split, a motor coach will be waiting. Take time to rest and enjoy the 2-hour ride.

Welcome to Medjugorje! We will be staying at the lovely Hotel Flowers. After getting the keys to your room meet your fellow pilgrims for supper in the dining room. Tonight you will want to go to bed early to catch up on jet lag and be refreshed for the exciting days ahead.



DAY 3 to DAY 7 Wednesday OCT 05 to OCT 10 MEDJUGORJE PILGRIMAGE



While in Medjugorje your days will revolve around precious opportunities for prayer and encounters with the Blessed Mother and Jesus.

Daily mass in English is at 10 am and each evening, at 6 pm, you will join the villagers and pilgrims from all over the world for the International [Croatian] Mass. You should be there at 5 pm to join in the recitation of the rosary. In fact, come early to save a seat for yourself if the Mass is inside the church.

At 5:40 pm Our Lady appears to the visionaries, wherever they are in the world; 3 of the original 6 still see her every day—there are a few moments of silence for us to welcome and greet Her in our hearts and present our prayers and petitions.

After the rosary is finished, stay on for the International Mass in Croatian. If you bring a small FM radio, you can listen to a simultaneous translation. Each evening, right after mass, there is the Blessing of the Sick and religious articles.

On Wednesdays and Saturdays don't miss the very powerful and touching Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and on Fridays Veneration of the Cross.

Adoration Chapel, right next to the main church, is open daily for personal time with God from 2 pm.

As a group you will follow the path up Apparition Hill where the visionaries first encountered Our Lady. Visit and pray at the “Blue Cross”, a place of great healings and graces near the base of Apparition Hill.

We will also have the opportunity to climb Mount Krizevac [Cross Mountain], where in 1933 the villagers built a 30-foot high cross on the 1900th anniversary of Jesus’ crucifixion. Many people are able to experience profound graces by kneeling at the foot of the Cross and laying their hearts bare before Jesus and His Mother. Great graces of forgiveness, healing, and peace fill their hearts at the end of their journey up this mountain, when one places one’s burdens at the foot of the Cross.



OPTIONAL visits:

- ❖ The Castle: hear a powerful testimony by fellow Canadian Patrick Latta.
- ❖ Mother’s Village, founded by Father Slavko Barbaric, the first spiritual director of the visionaries, to welcome orphans and unwed mothers.
- ❖ Statue of Mary at Tihaljina, a most beautiful statue of Our Lady with an amazing story to tell.
- ❖ Cenacolo—a community that reaches out to young people with addictions, giving them a chance to start anew.
- ❖ Siroki Brijeg—where 30 Franciscan priests were martyred on February 7th, 1945, just because they were Catholic.

DAY 8 Tuesday OCT 11 ARRIVE ROME

It is time to say goodbye to the Gospa. It will be sad, but with joyful hearts, after breakfast, we will make our way to Mostar Airport and fly to Rome.



Welcome to Rome, the Eternal City! After clearing arrival formalities, you will be met by an English-speaking assistant and escorted to a waiting coach for transfer to Hotel Regent, located in the lovely Parioli neighborhood. The balance of the day is at leisure.

DAY 9 Wednesday OCT 12 PAPAL AUDIENCE & ROME TOUR



Breakfast at the hotel. After attending the Papal audience in the morning, enjoy a tour of Imperial Rome. You will travel back to the time of the gladiators and wander through the ruins of ancient Rome. You will begin your 'journey through antiquity' on Capitoline Hill. After an in-depth explanation, you will see the remains of the great Roman era up close, before you climb onto Palatine Hill to admire the ruins of the imperial palace complex. After a visit to the Colosseum, you will go back to the Piazza Venezia at the foot of the Capitoline Hill.

DAY 10 Thursday OCT 13 CHRISTIAN ROME

Breakfast at the hotel. The 3 major basilicas outside the Vatican are on today's program: St John in the Lateran, the former seat of the popes with its holy stairway, the church of St Paul Outside the Walls, dedicated to Paul the Apostle and the Jubilee Church of St Mary Major, where Baby Jesus' Manger is kept. In the afternoon you will visit the catacombs. Descend into the underground burial chambers of the early Christians, which hold valuable examples of early Christian art. Then we go back to the city centre to pray on the Holy Stairs and visit the Sancta Sanctorum chapel. Last, reach the Rione dei Monti district to pay a visit to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church dedicated to Holy Wisdom [Santa Sofia], where you will admire the beautiful mosaics.

DAY 11 Friday OCT 14 VATICAN TOUR

Breakfast at the hotel. Today we pass through the Holy Door at St. Peter's Basilica, the largest church in the Christian world with its precious adornments: Michelangelo's Pietà, the venerable Statue of St. Peter, Bernini's masterpieces as well as the Papal Altar located above St. Peter's tomb. Behind the column on the right, you will see the Altar of St Basil with the incorrupt body of St Josaphat, a Ukrainian bishop—martyr for Church Unity. Optionally, ascend to the dome of St. Peter's Basilica for a

breathtaking view of the Italian capital. In the afternoon, enjoy a visit to the Vatican Museums. Since the collections of the museum are very extensive, a few targeted objects will be chosen out of the overwhelming selection to be viewed and explained during the tour. The Raphael Rooms and the world-famous Sistine Chapel are included.

DAY 12 Saturday OCT 15 ASSISI & ORVIETO



After breakfast, we travel by motor coach to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis, where you will be enchanted by the art and spirituality of this place. Visit the basilica with the excellent fresco cycle by Giotto, the city square and the churches of St. Clara and St. Ruffino. After lunch (on your own), transfer to Orvieto: its location is unique - atop a steep rocky plateau amidst vineyards and olive groves. This city built upon tuff stone is already impressive from a distance. The cathedral is the most important building in Orvieto and characterizes the city's skyline. The imposing structure allows a glimpse of the city's sumptuous past. Orvieto has a long tradition of ceramic handiwork and of woodworking. A shopping trip through the city will certainly result in a souvenir or two. Return to Rome for your overnight.

DAY 13 Sunday OCT 16 DEPART ROME

Breakfast at the hotel. Meet the English-speaking assistant at the hotel and transfer to the Rome airport to join your homebound flight.

HOTEL

ROME

Hotel Regent – 4-star hotel or similar

Via Filippo Civinini, 46/A - 00197 Rome Italy

The hotel is located in the elegant Parioli quarter of Rome, and is within easy reach of the centre of the city, just 2 km away, via bus or underground. It is situated just a few minutes from the historical centre of Rome in the immediate vicinity of via Veneto and the Galleria Borghese. The hotel is decorated and furnished in an attractive, classical style.

Price:**Double occupancy: \$3299 plus Medjugorje package: \$450****Single occupancy: \$3818 plus Medjugorje package: \$550**

Due to currency and form of payment constraints, the Medjugorje portion of the trip has to be paid by bank draft or cheque. Please mail your payment to:

**Queen of Peace Center
1183 - 5328 Calgary Trail NW
Edmonton AB T6H 4J8**

**To book call:
Iris Semeniuk 780-436-9248
 isemeniuk@shaw.ca
Maria Blomme 403-724-6084
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Your package includes:

- Round Trip Airfare
- All airport transfers
- All taxes
- Transportation to attractions in Rome by private, luxury air-conditioned coach with professional driver and English-speaking local guides.
- 7 nights 3-star hotel accommodation in Medjugorje with breakfast and dinner included daily.
- 5 nights 4-star hotel accommodation in Rome with daily breakfast included.
- Sightseeing and admissions as per the itinerary.
- VAT and local taxes on accommodation and sightseeing tours. In the event of an increase in tax or of the introduction of a new city tax after the date of this offer and before date of travel, we will be forced to collect the increased amount.

Exclusions:

- Rome accommodation tax: €6.00 Euros per person, per night payable at time of hotel checkout. Accommodation tax subject to change.
- Personal items
- Meals unless listed in itinerary
- Tips & Gratuities
- Excess baggage fees

INSURANCE:

Out of country medical insurance coverage is mandatory. Proof of coverage must be submitted at the time of booking. In the event of a traveller becoming ill during the tour and not having valid medical insurance, all hospital or medical expenses and any other expenses incurred due to the event are the traveller's responsibility.

It is strongly recommended that passengers also purchase cancellation and trip interruption insurance to protect themselves. Based on our cancellation policies the passenger will incur up to 100% cancellation penalties and should protect themselves and their investment.

DEPOSIT:

A \$300 non-refundable deposit is required at the time of booking.

FINAL PAYMENT:

Final payment is due by June 20th, 2016.

CANCELLATION:

After June 20th (final payment deadline) the package is 100% non-refundable.

PASSPORT & VISA INFORMATION:

Please, it is your responsibility to ensure you have all documentation required well in advance of your departure from Canada.

PASSPORTS

Passports should be valid for a minimum of 6 months from your scheduled RETURN date. Most destinations require that you have adequate unused pages in your passport, allowing for any necessary stamps upon arrival and departure. We recommend that you have at least two free pages in the Visas section of your passport before any international travel.

VISAS

Canadian passport holders do not require a visa to enter Germany, Croatia, Bosnia or Italy. For other than Canadian citizens, please check with the local consulate for entry requirements.

CURRENCY AND PRICING FLUCTUATIONS

This itinerary is based on the current exchange rate(s). Should there be considerable currency fluctuations, we reserve the right to apply any necessary surcharges. In the event of any additional fuel surcharges by the Land Suppliers and/or airlines we reserve the right to add these to the costs of the land package and/or airfare. You will be advised of any applicable increases in writing prior to final payment. Prices are guaranteed once final payment has been made.

A FEW MORE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

- 1 - A couple of weeks before your pilgrimage, begin preparing physically as well as spiritually. If not accustomed to physical activity, begin walking “briskly” 1-2 times a day; build up to 2-3 miles with no discomfort.
- 2 - If possible attend daily Mass and spend quiet time in Our Lord’s presence.
- 3 - Pray for Jesus and His Blessed Mother to open your heart and mind to be responsive to new perspectives, ideas, to their words laid on your heart...
- 4 - Begin praying the rosary daily (Learn How to Pray the Rosary) or at least the Creed, 7 Our Fathers, 7 Hail Marys & 7 Glory Bes as Our Lady has requested; this takes about 5-7 minutes.

Suggestions:

- ❖ You will be on the go all day—bring practical outfits and **very comfortable shoes**. During the day temperatures will be pleasant but at night it cools down substantially and, depending on the crowds, services might be held outdoors, in the area behind the church. Bring a warm jacket, mitts and a toque if you are on the cooler side!
- ❖ There are no laundry facilities at the hotels; bring detergent.
- ❖ Sleeveless tops and shorts are not permitted in the church area.
- ❖ You can bring jeans, casual pants; short / long sleeve shirts, t-shirts, dresses, skirts, a sweater for layering, socks, under garments, jacket, warm pyjamas and a hat to block the sun.
- ❖ Other suggested items are a rain poncho and umbrella, just in case there are rainy days.
- ❖ Prescription medication: bring a 3-week supply of all the medicines you need and pack them in your carry on. If you lose or forget your meds it is almost certain you won’t be able to get your medication while in Medjugorje.
- ❖ Temperatures using the Fahrenheit scale:

Average Temperatures

Croatia

City		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Medjugorje	Low	37	39	50	47	54	61	66	65	60	52	45	39
	High	48	51	58	64	73	80	87	86	80	69	57	50
Dubrovnik	Low	42	43	57	52	58	65	69	69	64	57	51	46
	High	53	55	58	63	70	78	83	82	77	69	62	56
Split	Low	41	43	45	52	59	65	70	70	65	58	49	43
	High	50	52	56	63	72	79	85	85	77	68	58	52

You might also want to bring:

Bible, journal and pen

Head / neck pillow, eye mask, earplugs for the flight or if your companion snores

Alarm clock

Dramamine if you are prone to motion sickness

Aspirin, Advil, Tylenol

Laxative, Imodium, Pepto Bismol

Sleep aids

Allergy/cold medicine

Sunscreen

Band Aids

Toiletries and a washcloth

Moist wipes, hand sanitizer and travel size Kleenex

Camera, charger, battery and carrying case

Adapter and converter if you are bringing any electronic devices

Garden kneeling pad – for mass if held outdoors

Small FM radio—homilies and talks are translated into English live.

About Medjugorje & Travel Abroad:

Language: The official language is Croatian, however English is widely spoken and many signs appear in English as well.

Hotel Accommodations: Rooms in Medjugorje are basic. There is a twin bed, nightstand and a small cabinet for your clothes. Several towels can be found on your bed. For the most part, rooms are not air-conditioned. Rooms are smaller than you are used to. Every room does have a

modest bathroom. In the bathroom you will find a sink, toilet and shower stall. Fixtures in bathrooms and bedrooms are not standardized. Most hotels do NOT offer a hair dryer in the bathroom; bring one if you need it. Most hotels do NOT offer toiletries (shampoo, lotion); bring an adequate supply with you. Please note that while we can request non-smoking rooms, there is no policy of separating Smoking vs. Non Smoking. In most restaurants people still smoke.

Electricity: The voltage in Europe is 220. Make sure your electronics are dual voltage or bring a converter. All AMA centres offer a selection of travel packs with adapter plugs and a voltage converter.

Cellular Phone: If you bring your cellular phone, make sure to contact your wireless phone provider and inform them that you will be traveling overseas. Most providers offer an “international roaming plan” that you may sign up for. This will allow you to make calls to Canada while you are out of the country using your wireless phone. Please check with your provider for exact rates in the countries where you’ll be traveling. Be extra cautious using your data while abroad. If your cell phone has a data plan, be sure to turn data roaming “OFF” on the plane to avoid potentially high fees. The rates for data can add up much more quickly than for roaming voice calls and text messages.

Calling Canada from Medjugorje: To make a direct international call, dial “001” and then the local area code and telephone number.

Laptops/Tablets: most hotels DO offer WiFi service; they may charge a small fee.

Public Toilets: Known as WC, they are available at most tourist locations. Be prepared with tissues in your pocket at all times. Be aware that some public toilets have an attendant, who may ask for a small “user fee.”

Terrain: Many streets in Medjugorje are narrow, and due to strict traffic regulations the buses are not always permitted to drop groups off directly in front of their destination. Many areas are pedestrian only and have cobblestones. Please be prepared to walk! High-heeled shoes are not suitable for cobblestone streets; rubber-soled walking shoes are recommended. Medjugorje has many old buildings. There are split-levels and uneven surfaces everywhere; please watch your step! Due to the structure of old buildings, access to some establishments may not be convenient for wheelchair use and facilities for the disabled in general may be limited.

Photography: If using a digital camera, bring an extra memory card and extra batteries.

Taxis: Transfers are not included for all your daily activities while in Medjugorje. In order to get to Church, Podbrdo (Apparition Hill), or Krizevac (Cross Mountain) you will have a choice: to walk approximately 15 minutes, or to take a taxi at a cost of \$10 per ride (regardless of destination within Medjugorje). You can join others and split the fare—maximum 4 people per taxi. Just like anywhere else, be wary of anyone offering unofficial taxi services.

Local Customs / Social Conventions: A different way of life in some countries may take you by surprise, but if you travel with an open mind and respect local customs, you should find it easy to

adapt to and enjoy your new surroundings. Standards of living may not be quite what you are used to, but there are compensations—a closer sense of reality and an authentic feeling of locale. Due to cultural differences you may not be greeted quite as cheerfully as back home; smiling is generally reserved for intimate friends. Be especially wary of people presenting themselves as “instant friends” and never accept food or drink from strangers.

Meals: Breakfast and dinner will be served in our hotel’s main dining room throughout your stay in Medjugorje. Your meals include mineral water and wine.

Tap Water: While most local tap water will not hurt you, due to differences in mineral and micro-biotic levels, we recommend that you avoid consuming it, as it may upset your stomach.

If you purchase a DVD, please check very carefully that it be compatible with your home viewing system.