

# 13 Day Pilgrimage to Austria, Clovenia, Medjugorje & Croatia

Budapest & Slovenia & Bled & Zagreb Ludbreg & Trogir & Split & Dubrovnik & Medjugorje

> May 20 – June 1, 2024 \$4,690.00 Per Person From Miami

**Includes:** Roundtrip Air Transportation From Miami, First Class Hotels, Double Occupancy, 2 Meals A Day - Breakfast And Dinner, Daily Sightseeing, Bilingual Guides, Airport Taxes, Fuel Surcharges - Which Are Subject To Change, And Tips To Drivers And Guides.

> Spiritual Director: Fr. Alex Vargas St. Thomas More Catholic Church – Boynton Beach, FL

## **13 DAY TRAVEL ITINERARY**

#### **DAY 01 MIAMI / FRANKFURT**

Board Lufthansa German airlines flight to Frankfurt.

#### **DAY 02 FRANKFURT / BUDAPEST**

Arrive Frankfurt. Change planes to Budapest. Upon arrival, you will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free to walk and enjoy this charming city. Dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 03 BUDAPEST**

Full day tour of Budapest. Today's sightseeing includes the 13th century Matthias Coronation Church, the Citadel on Mount Gellert, The Neo – Gothic Parliament, and Heroes Square. We will visit the famous *St. Stephen Church, where we will celebrate Mass*, and see the Castle Hill area. Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 04** POSTONJA / SLOVENIA / BLED

This morning, we head north into Slovenia and to the town of Postojna, home of one of the largest caves in Europe. Tour this fantastic subterranean world by miniature electric train. Afterwards, your journey continues to the lovely town of Bled, beautifully situated in Julian Alps. Then return to your hotel in Bled for dinner and overnight.

#### DAY 05 BLED / VINTGAR GORGE / ZAGREB

An Alpine Lake surrounded by high peaks, Bled was discovered by travelers in the middle of 19th century. Since then, the small town of beautiful villas and hotels, and restaurants has developed around the lake turning Bled into a lively all season's resort. We visit Vintgar Gorge (Slovene: soteska Vintgar) or Bled Gorge (Blejski vintgar) is a 1.6-kilometer (0.99 mi) gorge in northwestern Slovenia. Carved by the Radovna River, it is the continuation of the Radovna Valley. The sheer canyon walls are 50 to 100 meters (160 to 330 ft) high, with a total slope measuring about 250 m (820 ft). The stream has created many erosive features such as pools and rapids and terminates in the picturesque 13 m (43 ft) Šum Falls (literally, 'noisy falls'), the largest river waterfall in Slovenia. Then, onto Zagreb, the capital of Croatia since 1557. The Upper Town is



one of the best maintained medieval cities in Europe with museums, galleries, and numerous monuments, where we will stop at St. Catherine's Church. Head to your hotel for dinner and overnight in Zagreb.

#### **DAY 06** LUDBREG / ZAGREB

This morning, we depart to Ludbreg, to visit the Holy Trinity Chapel, on which during the European Year of Cultural Heritage, completed conservation and restoration of the pulpit from the Church of the Most Holy Trinity in Ludbreg will be presented. Then onto in what is known in Croatia as the Sanctuary of the Most Precious Blood of Christ. The Sanctuary is tied to a miraculous event that happened in 1411 in the chapel. From that time a number of people have miraculously healed in front of the relic of St. Cross Chapel, where the miracle happened, is part of the Batthyany Castle. It is covered in wall paintings of the miraculous transformation of wine into the Most Precious Blood of Christ. Then, onto Zagreb, where your sightseeing tour will take you along the historic Upper Town, to see St. Mark's Church, the Bloody Bridge, Tkalciceva Street, Lotrscak Tower, Zagreb, Cathedral, the Parliament, and the Government Palace. We will visit the Museum of Broken Relationships and then return to your hotel in Zagreb for dinner and overnight.

Mass at the Chapel of Holy Blood



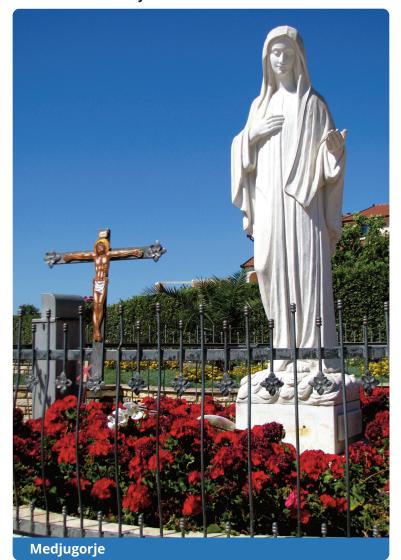
#### **DAY 07** ZAGREB / PLITVICE / ZADAR

After breakfast, we will depart Zagreb and we will travel inland towards beautiful Plitvice Lakes National Park. There you will take the electric-boat ride and panoramic train ride and see the Great Waterfall, the Sastavci waterfalls, and the 4 dark blue lakes including Lake Kozjak. We then will travel to Zadar and head to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

#### **DAY 08 TROGIR / SPLIT**

After breakfast, board your bus and head to a town on the central Adriatic coast of Croatia. Its preserved old town, known for its mix of Renaissance, baroque and Romanesque buildings, lies on a small island connected to the mainland and the island of Čiovo by bridges. The 13th-century Cathedral of St. Lawrence houses the Renaissance Chapel of St. John and offers sweeping views from its bell tower. Then on

to Split, the second-largest city of Croatia, the largest city in Dalmatia and the largest city on the Croatian coast. Most of Split's historical and cultural monuments can be found within the walls of 1700 year-old Roman Emperor Diocletian's Palace. This spectacular palace is the largest and best-preserved Roman palace in the world, built for the Emperor Diocletian, representing a precious example of Roman architecture. See the remains of the Roman Peristyle, the unusual Cathedral of St. Domnius built in the Middle Ages, and the Temple of Jupiter, with its headless black sphinx guarding the entrance. Return to your hotel in Split for dinner and overnight. *Mass at Cathedral of St. Dominus Cathedral* 



### **DAY 09 SPLIT / DUBROVNIK / MEDJUGORJE**

This morning, we depart Split and travel to Dubrovnik. Dubrovnik was known as the Republic of Ragusa in the Middle Ages and became the only Adriatic city-state to rival Venice. Supported by skilled diplomacy and wealth, the city achieved a remarkable development, particularly during the 15th and 16th centuries. We will visit the Franciscan Monastery with Europe's third oldest pharmacy, Rector's Palace, and Cathedral. Continue to Medjugorje for dinner and overnight.

#### Public Mass at St. James Church.

#### DAYS 10-12 MEDJUGORJE (3 DAYS)

During our stay in peaceful Medjugorje, we will meet and share your faith with thousands of pilgrims from all over the world. Each morning at 10 there will assemble at St. James Church for the English language mass. Your local guide will accompany you during the next couple of days as you follow the same path up the Apparition Hill where the young visionaries first encountered Our Lady. Contemplate the inspired artistry of the bronze plagues depicting each mystery of the rosary as we climb Podbrdo Hill. Touch and pray before the cross, commemorating the spot where Mary appeared to the visionaries. See from afar and then climb Krizevac Mountain, where in 1933 the villagers built a 30' high cross on the anniversary of Jesus' crucifixion. Today, wooden crosses and bronze images line the path up the hill, representing the Stations of the Cross. Your guide will arrange a meeting with one of the visionaries in their own homes or a public place. In the evening, you can join the villagers and pilgrims for the evening Croation Mass and the Blessing of the Sick. Spend time in prayer and meditation at the most peaceful place in the whole world where our Blessed Mother first appeared to the children, then return to your hotel for dinner and overnight.

#### DAY 12 MEDJUGORJE / DUBROVNIK / SARAJEVO

Spend the morning in Medjugorje, attend Mass and later this afternoon depart to Dubrovnik. Sightseeing and overnight in Sarajevo.



**DAY 13 SARAJEVO / MIAMI** Transfer to the airport for your flights back to Miami.

#### For Further Information, Please Contact:

Fr. Alex Vargas St. Thomas More Catholic Church Tel: 561-737-3095

EARLY REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

#### The Tour Price Includes:

Air Transportation: Airfare is based on special contract agreements with various international airlines and include certain restrictions and deadlines. These fares are subject to cancellation penalties, and once tickets are issued, they are NON-REFUNDABLE, NON-TRANSFERABLE AND CANNOT BE USED TOWARDS FUTURE TRAVEL. Please refer to our CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY below. Airfare and tour prices are based on prices effective as of JANUARY 1, 2024 and are subject to change without notice.

**Surface/Land Transportation:** All surface/land transportation described in the itinerary will be provided by modern motor coach, designed for highway travel. Groups will be met and transferred upon arrival and departure.

**Hotels:** We only use first-class hotels. Hotel accommodations are based on double occupancy (2 per room). We reserve the right to substitute hotels of similar quality for those specified in the itinerary.

**Single Room Supplements:** If you would like a single room, there is an additional cost of **\$1,200.00** that will be added to the tour price. Single rooms are limited and will be reserved on a first come first serve basis. If you request a roommate and none is available, you will be considered a "forced single," and charged one half (½) of the Single Room Supplement cost.

Meal Plan: Meal plans include two (2) meals per day, breakfast and dinner, with timing depending on the itinerary. Taxes and service charges normally appearing on restaurant bills are included in the tour price for these meals. A list of any and all dietary requests or food allergies must be emailed to cathy@inspirationaltoursinc.com for hotel / airline accommodation at least seven (7) days before departure. We cannot guarantee any dietary accommodations but will make all efforts to secure special dietary requests. In the event airlines or hotels are unable to accommodate dietary requests, you will be responsible for your meals; it is the individual's responsibility to choose appropriate foods while on the tour. Unused meals will NOT be reimbursed.

**Baggage:** Inspirational Tours, Inc. restricts all passengers to one (1) piece of checked luggage (max. 50 lbs.) and one (1) carry-on (max. 18 lbs.). All passengers should check with the airline for up-to-date baggage weight/dimension information and restrictions, which are subject to change at any time before departure.

Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges: are included in the tour price and are subject to change.

Tips On The Tour: Tips to guides, porters, headwaiters, and drivers are included in the tour price, unless otherwise specified.

The Tour Price Does Not Include: Expenses related to issuance/renewal of passports, laundry, mineral waters, wine & liquor, after-lunch/dinner tea, coffee, or food not included in the meal plan above; additional baggage; expenses of carriages, guides, sightseeing or other services other than those specifically mentioned as included in the itinerary; insurance for baggage or personal trip or health insurance; all items of a personal nature, in addition to those not listed above as being included in the tour price.

Booking Conditions: Deposits and Payment: A non-refundable deposit of \$300.00 per person, payable via cash, check or money order, is required at the time of registration. No registration will be processed without a deposit. Invoices for final balances are issued at or near 90 days before departure. Full and final payment is due 60 days before departure. Registrations received within 90 days of departure require payment in full. If there is any outstanding balance by the Final Payment due date listed on your invoice, all travel services will be subject to automatic cancellation and cancellation fees will apply. A service reinstatement fee may be added to your invoice and must be paid in advance in order to apply for reconfirmation of services. WE ONLY ACCEPT CASH, CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS FOR THE REGISTRATION FEE. Payment by credit card is accepted ONLY for final balances or payments towards final balances; all credit card payments will be assessed a 3% non-refundable convenience fee, which will be added to the total amount being charged.

Cancellations and Refund Policy: All cancellations MUST BE RECEIVED IN WRITING VIA FAX, E-MAIL OR U.S. MAIL. The date of the cancellation request is the date used for purposes of any assessed cancellation fees. Please note that Registration Fees are NON-REFUNDABLE as stated on the Registration Form. Cancellation fees (as to any monies paid over the deposit for a tour with a non-refundable deposit) depend on the timing of the cancellation request, and are as follows: request received between time of registration and up to 59 to 45 days prior to departure-cancellation fee of 50% of tour cost; request received 44 days or less prior to departure through date of departure—assessed 100% of the tour cost (air and land, and any deviation fees) as the cancellation fee. Additional charges/fees for deviations and/or upgraded seats may require full payment at time of booking/confirmation, and may be non-refundable; if a non-refundable air ticket has been issued prior to receiving notice of a cancellation request, you will be 100% responsible for those fees, in addition to the cancellation penalties listed above. Package cancellation fees include airfare. Once airfare is purchased, either at time of booking, including but not limited to, deviations or seat upgrade requests, or at time of full payment, airline tickets will be issued and are always subject to a 100% penalty. Once full payment is received, Inspirational Tours, Inc. will issue airline tickets, which are nonrefundable. If the tour is canceled for any reason, including but not limited to, tour leader's decision, decision of Inspirational Tours, Inc., weather or natural disasters, strike, acts of war, terrorism, acts of god, quarantine, disease, virus, epidemic, pandemic, compliance with government orders, travel restrictions issued by the U.S. Department of State, or any other force majeure event, Inspirational Tours, Inc. reserves the right to charge a minimum \$300.00 administrative fee per person, plus any non-reimbursable expenses incurred from airlines and/or overseas operators. ALL RESERVATIONS ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON.

Deviations/Seat Upgrades: Deviation policies vary by airline and are normally allowed only on the return journey, from the same departing city as the group, and is subject to availability. There is a minimum change fee of \$150.00 per person, plus any additional airline charges. Seat upgrade requests may also require additional fees by the airlines and vary. Any additional fees required to be paid by the airline for deviation requests and/or seat upgrade requests will need to be approved by the passenger in writing before confirmed/reserved, and if the request requires payment at the time of confirmation, this must be paid by the passenger at the time requested and may be non-refundable. ALL deviation or seat upgrade requests must be made in writing, at least 90 days prior to your departure date and must be paid in full upon confirming deviations. ALL RESERVATIONS ARE NON-TRANSFERABLE AND NON-REFUNDABLE AT ANY TIME FOR ANY REASON.

**Tour Prices:** All tour prices quoted for transportation and land arrangements in this tour are based on rates, (including foreign exchange rates), in effect at the time of the original tour agreement with your tour host and Inspirational Tours, Inc. and are subject to increase without notice prior to departure. **NOTE:** Our tours are based on a minimum number of participants. We reserve the right to cancel or reschedule any tour for any reason including insufficient participants, or events beyond our control. Any cancellation will be advised at the soonest date possible. Inspirational Tours, Inc. will not be held responsible for any costs related to the issuance and/or cancellation of airline tickets or visa fees that are not refunded by those entities.

**Travel Insurance:** To protect your travel plans, **WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THE PURCHASE OF TRIP INSURANCE.** A brochure for a company we recommend will be provided with your deposit confirmation letter, upon our receipt of your registration and deposit. We do not sell travel insurance and travel insurance is not included in the tour price.

Passports: It is your responsibility to provide us with a copy of your current passport with your Registration Form. Validity date on passports must be for at least six (6) months after the date of return of the tour as per the tour dates, or any deviation request. If we do not receive a copy of your current passport, the information you provide on your Registration Form will be used for ticketing purposes. If ANV information provided (name, date of birth, etc.) does not match what is on your passport, you may be subject to penalties or fees for corrections to airline tickets, and/or may be denied boarding by the airline. Any name change, including minor spelling corrections, may require reservations to be canceled and re-booked. Reservations will then be subject to availability and pricing at the time of re-booking; any increase in airfare will be borne by the passenger. Inspirational Tours, Inc. will not be held responsible for the denial of services by a carrier due to any name or passport discrepancies. If you have a passport issued from any country other than the U.S., it is your responsibility to contact the embassies of the countries to be visited to determine if a visa will be required, and if so, it will be your responsibility to obtain such visa before departure. Please contact us for further information if this applies to you.

Travelers Needing Special Assistance: We recommend you please select a tour suitable to your physical capabilities. Our tours are often-times fast paced and may require lengthy walks over uneven terrain and/or steps If you require any form of mobility assistance or for any sight/hearing disabilities, you are required to notify us before registering so we can best assist you and/or determine if this tour is suitable. Inspirational Tours, Inc., tour leaders/coordinators, guides, drivers or other tour, hotel, transfers or ship personnel will not provide individual services, such as assistance with walking, pushing wheelchairs, or helping one embark/disembark motor coaches, cruise ships, etc. We reserve the right to reject participation or remove an individual from a tour in the event that notification was not provided and/or when, in our sole judgment, continued participation would significantly hinder the services to be provided to all guests. Expenses, including cancellation fees and/or costs for alternate travel plans or to return home, will be the responsibility of the passenger. All unused services are non-refundable. Wheelchairs & Walkers: certain features of tours may not accommodate wheelchairs, scooters, or other special equipment. We cannot provide individual assistance to travelers with wheelchairs or other mobility devices. We regret that some itineraries cannot accommodate these devices. You are required to notify us before registering of a need for a wheelchair, walker or other mobility devices.

Responsibilities: Inspirational Tours, Inc. or their agents act only as an agent in regards to securing air and ground arrangements. We do not own or operate any entities providing such services; all such persons/entities are independent contractors and Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any such person, entity or third party. Inspirational Tours, Inc. assumes no liability for injury, damage, or loss to person or property, due to accident, death, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by acts or defect in any vehicle or for any reason whatsoever, or through the acts or default of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not responsible for circumstances beyond its control. Inspirational Tours, Inc. does not accept any responsibility, nor shall be held responsible, for cancellations, losses or expenses due to delay/changes in air or other services, passenger's sickness, weather or natural disasters, strike, acts of war, terrorism, acts of god, quarantine, disease, virus, epidemic, pandemic, compliance with government orders, travel restrictions issued by the U.S. Department of State, or any other force majeure event. Where trip cancellations result from the inability to depart as scheduled, based on any of the abovementioned incidents, Inspirational Tours, Inc. is not liable for restitution, and reserves the right to postpone or cancel the tour without any liability when travel becomes impracticable or impossible. Any losses or expenses will be borne by the passenger. We reserve the right to cancel any tour prior to departure for any reason; a refund may be issued depending on the reason for cancellation. Any such refund shall constitute full and final settlement to the passenger. No refund will be made for any unused portion of the tour unless arrangements are made prior to departure from the United States and approved by Inspirational Tours, Inc. We reserve the right to accept, reject or refuse service to any person at any time for any reason; in this event, expenses, including cancelation fees/costs will be borne by the passenger, and any unused services are non-refundable. The airlines used, their agents, or affiliates and other carriers, are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time a passenger is not on board their aircraft. The passenger's ticket issued by said carriers, when issued, shall constitute the sole contract between the carriers and the purchasers of these tickets and/or the passenger.



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