

## PILGRIMAGE TOUR TO **CROATIA & MEDUGORJE**

28<sup>TH</sup> SEP -13<sup>TH</sup> OCT 2025

ESCORTED BY FR ED ORILLA



ESTIMATED TOUR PACKAGE AUDS 7,890\* PER PERSON (TWIN SHARE) OPTIONAL SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT ADDITIONAL

ESTIMATED

AUD\$1,095

FULLY **ESCORTED** \*Conditions apply. Subject to change. Price based on minimum of 25 pilgrims

REGISTER HERE



Join us for an unforgettable pilgrimage to the sacred shrines of Croatia and Medjugorje. This fully escorted, all-inclusive journey not only leads you to the renowned site of Medjugorje, but also encompasses visits to the significant Marian shrines in Croatia, including Marija Bistrica, Opatija & Istria.

Discover the historic and cultural treasures of Zagreb, Plitvice Lakes, Split, and Dubrovnik. Each destination offers a unique and enriching spiritual and cultural experience, allowing you

to deepen your faith while exploring Croatia and Medjugorje's rich heritage.

Fr Eduardo will be leading this pilgrimage and is looking forward welcoming you onboard as we start preparations for this spiritual journey in late September / October 2025.



Register your interest and obtain a booking form from Fr Eduardo or Olive Tree Travel or by (CLICKING HERE NEXT To secure your place on the pilgrimage, a deposit of AUD\$1000 per person is required by 28th February 2025 2. **STEPS** 3. The final balance will be due by late July 2025





### DAY 1 28TH SEPT: DEPARTURE

Depart Sydney this evening on EK413 at 2120 bound for Dubai. On arrival, transfer to your connecting Fly Dubai flight to Zagreb.

### DAY 2 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPT: ARRIVAL IN ZAGREB (D) (30KM/30 MIN AIRPORT TRANSFER)

Arrive in Zagreb, the vibrant capital of Croatia. You will be greeted at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy a welcoming dinner and relax overnight in Zagreb, preparing for the spiritual journey ahead.

# DAY 3 30<sup>TH</sup> SEPT: ZAGREB AND MARIJA BISTRICA VISIT (B,L,D) (45KM / 1H PER DIRECTION)

Begin your day with a guided sightseeing tour of Zagreb. Start with a visit to Zagreb Cathedral, a stunning example of Gothic architecture and the tallest building in Croatia, dedicated to the Assumption of Mary and to St. Stephen. Then, explore the Stone Gate, a significant historical monument that houses a chapel with a painting of the Virgin Mary, which miraculously survived a fire in the 18th century and is now a place of prayer and reflection for many locals and visitors. Continue your tour through the charming streets of the Upper Town, including a visit to St. Mark's Church, known for its colorful tiled roof depicting the coats of arms of Croatia, Dalmatia, and Slavonia. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant. In the afternoon, visit Marija Bistrica, Croatia's most significant Marian shrine, attracting pilgrims from around the world. The shrine is known for its miraculous statue of the Black Madonna and is a place of deep spiritual significance. Return to Zagreb for overnight and dinner.

### DAY 4 1<sup>st</sup> OCT: RIJEKA AND OPATIJA (B,D) (180KM / 2,50H NET TRANSFER TIME + VISIT ON ROUTE)

Drive to Rijeka and visit Trsat Castle, followed by a visit to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Trsat. This revered pilgrimage site is believed to be the place where the Holy House of Nazareth was temporarily located before being transported to Loreto, Italy. The site has been a significant centre of worship since the 13th century. Pope John Paul II visited the sanctuary in 2003, highlighting its importance in the Catholic faith. Pilgrims come to seek blessings and find solace at the shrine, which houses a miraculous icon of the Virgin Mary. Continue to Opatija, known for its charming coastal scenery and elegant architecture. Enjoy dinner and overnight in Opatija.

### DAY 5 2<sup>ND</sup> OCT: ISTRIA EXCURSION (B, TASTING, D) (220KM / ROUNDTRIP, FULL DAY EXCURSION)

Explore the Istrian Peninsula, starting with the ancient Roman Colosseum in Pula. Proceed to Vodnjan to visit the Parish Church of St. Blaise, which houses one of the largest collections of religious relics in Europe, including mummified saints and relics of the True Cross. Visit the picturesque old town of Rovinj, including the Church of St. Euphemia. St. Euphemia was a Christian martyr who died for her faith in 303 AD during the persecutions of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. According to legend, her body was miraculously transported by a sarcophagus that floated across the sea to Rovinj. The church dedicated to her is an important pilgrimage site, and her relics are kept there, drawing visitors seeking her intercession and inspiration from her steadfast faith. Experience a tasting of local products, including wine and olive oil, at an agriturismo. Return to Opatija for overnight and dinner.

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### DAY 6 3<sup>RD</sup> OCT: PLITVICE LAKES AND ZADAR (B,D) (350KM / ONE WAY, FULL DAY EXCURSION)

Depart for the stunning Plitvice Lakes National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its breathtaking natural beauty. The park features 16 terraced lakes, interconnected by a series of stunning waterfalls and cascades. Enjoy a boat ride on the largest lake, Kozjak, to fully appreciate the serene landscape. After exploring the park, continue to Zadar for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 7 4<sup>TH</sup> OCT: ZADAR, PRIMOŠTEN AND SPLIT (B,D) (180KM / ONE WAY, FULL DAY PROGRAM)

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of Zadar, including its famous Sea Organ, which creates music from the movement of the sea, and the Sun Salutation, a solar-powered light installation. Explore Roman ruins and historic churches in the old town. On the way to Split, stop in Primošten to visit the Statue of Our Lady of Loreto, a monumental statue offering stunning panoramic views of the Adriatic Sea and the surrounding countryside. Continue to Split for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 8 5<sup>TH</sup> OCT: SPLIT AND SINJ (B,D) (180KM / ONE WAY, FULL DAY PROGRAM)

Discover the historic city of Split with a guided tour, including Diocletian's Palace and St. Domnius Cathedral. Explore the Peristyle, the central square of Diocletian's Palace, and the Temple of Jupiter, now a baptistery. Travel to Sinj, known for the Shrine of Our Lady of Sinj, a significant pilgrimage site where the faithful come to venerate the miraculous image of Our Lady of Sinj. The shrine played a crucial role during the Ottoman invasions, believed to have protected the town and its inhabitants. Proceed to Medjugorje for dinner and overnight.

### **DAY 9 6TH OCT: MEDJUGORJE (B,D) (LOCAL SIGHTSEEING AND FREE)**

Spend the day in Medjugorje, a renowned pilgrimage destination where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared. Participate in spiritual activities, including attending mass and visiting Apparition Hill and Cross Mountain.Dinner at the hotel.

### DAY 10 7<sup>TH</sup> OCT: EXCURSION TO MOSTAR (30KM / ONE WAY, HALF DAY EXCURSION) (B,D)

Take an excursion to Mostar. Visit the famous Old Bridge (Stari Most) and the historic old town, which reflect a blend of Ottoman, Mediterranean, and Western European architectural styles. Visit a mosque and the Turkish House, showcasing Ottoman-era architecture and lifestyle. Mostar is known for its multi-ethnic and multi-religious community, where Islam, Christianity, and Judaism have coexisted for centuries. Return to Medjugorje for dinner and overnight.

### DAY 11 8<sup>TH</sup> OCT: MEDJUGORJE (B,D) (FREE DAY)

Enjoy another full day in Medjugorje, deepening your spiritual experience with additional visits and personal reflection time. Overnight in Medjugorje.Dinner at the hotel.



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## DAY 12 9<sup>TH</sup> OCT: MEDJUGORJE TO DUBROVNIK (B, TASTING, D) (150KM / ONE WAY, FULL DAY PROGRAM)

Depart Medjugorje and stop at the Kravice Waterfalls, a beautiful natural wonder where you can enjoy the picturesque scenery and tranquil atmosphere. Continue to Ston, known for its historic walls and salt pans. Here, experience an oyster tasting, savoring some of the freshest oysters in Europe. Arrive in Dubrovnik for dinner and overnight.

## DAY 13 10<sup>TH</sup> OCT: DUBROVNIK SIGHTSEEING (B,D) (LOCAL TRANSFER)

After breakfast, embark on a sightseeing tour of Dubrovnik. Walk along Stradun Street, the main thoroughfare of the old town, and explore the historic Old Town. Visit the Franciscan Monastery, which houses one of the oldest pharmacies in Europe, dating back to the 14th century. After the guided visit, enjoy free time for your own activities and individual exploration. Return to the hotel at your leisure. Overnight & dinner in Dubrovnik.

#### DAY 14 11<sup>TH</sup> OCT: DEPARTURE FROM DUBROVNIK (30KM / 30MIN, AIRPORT TRANSFER)

After breakfast, transfer to Dubrovnik airport and fly to Rome and then onto Dubai and Sydney.

## DAY 15 12<sup>TH</sup> OCT: TRAVEL DAY

### DAY 16 13<sup>TH</sup> OCT: ARRIVE HOME

Arrive back to Sydney early this morning with wonderful memories of our Pilgrimage away.

\*\* Itinerary subject to change.

### PRICE INCLUDES

- Emirates Flight from Sydney to Zagreb via Dubai
   and return from Rome to Sydney visa Sydney
- One way flight from Dubrovnik to Rome
- 12 nights hotel accommodation in local 4\* star accommodation
- Breakfast and Dinner daily. Breakfasts and Dinners at hotels unless otherwise specified.
- All tips, gratuities and porterage

## PRICE EXCLUDES

- Drinks with meals
- Travel insurance

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Incidentals, laundry

- Whisperer headsets
- All guiding and entrance fees as per the itinerary.
- Tour Manager throughout the tour
- Air-conditioned coach
- 1 lunch in Zagreb region
- Oyster tasting with wine
- Tasting of local products in Istria
- Lunches
- Any arrangements in Rome



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### **PROPOSED HOTEL ACCOMMODATION** (or similar):

Hotel Zonar – Zagreb (2 overnights)
Hotel Bristol or Hotel Astoria – Opatija (2 overnights)
Hotel Kolovare – Zadar (1 overnight)
Hotel Salona Palace – Solin (Split area) (1 overnight)
Hotel Herceg – Međugorje (4 overnights)
Hotel Adria – Dubrovnik (2 overnights)

### Flight Details & Options

The below flights with Emirates (& Croatian Airlines) have been booked for the group: You'll notice the short internal flight from Dubrovnik to Rome is also included in the package.

EK 413	28 SEP	Sydney-Dubai	2110 0540+1
EK2012	29 SEP	Dubai-Zagreb	0920 1330
OU384	11 OCT	Dubrovnik-Rome	1600 1710
EK96	11 OCT	Rome-Dubai	2210 0550+1
EK412	12 OCT	Dubai-Sydney	1015 0705+1

### Interested in staying in Rome for 3 days?

Instead of flying straight home via Rome, we have held a limited number of seats out of Rome on 14th October, allowing pilgrims to enjoy Rome independently from 11-14 October. Fr Eduardo has offered to assist pilgrims in finding modest accommodation and doing some local sightseeing & worship in the Eternal City during the Holy Jubilee Year of Hope.



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