

Cathedral 2020 Medjugorje Pilgrimage June 6th- 15th

Questions & Answers about Pilgrimages to Medjugorje



Q. Who can travel on this trip

A. We'd love to make this an inclusive trip of current Cathedral Students, CHS College students, CHS Educators, CHA & Academy Alumni, and CHS Family members.

Q. Do you have a land only package?

A. We have a land package for those who will be arranging their own flights. The land package includes bus transfers with our group from the Dubrovnik Airport to Medjugorje, accommodations in Medjugorje, 2 meals a day, all tipping, taxes and gratuities, as well as your guide.

B. It also includes one night in the hotel in Dublin with breakfast.

Q. What airport do I depart from?

A. From the Indianapolis International Airport.

Q. Does the cost include airfare?

A. Airfare is a separate cost and is placed on your own credit card and is counted as your deposit.

Q. How much walking is involved?

A. As much or as little as you desire. It is only a 5 minute walk to get from our hotel to the Church of St. James. It is a 15 minute walk to the Hill of Apparition and 20 minutes to Cross Mountain, however there are taxis and they charge \$6 for one or 4 persons per drive. It is important to have comfortable walking shoes.

Q. How many days are included in the BVM Caritas pilgrimage?

A. We will arrive to Medjugorje on June 8th at about 3:00 in the afternoon and will leave on the 14th about 8:00 in the morning to go back thru Ireland. Home on the June 15 around 9:30 pm.

Q. How many people can be housed in one room?

A. There are a few rooms available that are large enough for a family of 4 or 5. (WE will use Quad and Triples for students) Most rooms are doubles—two twin beds, or triple rooms - there is an extra charge of \$15 per night for a single room. Each room has its own bathroom. In Ireland the cost is an extra \$70 for the one night.

Q. Can we stay longer in Ireland if we choose. (This does not include students unless they are accompanied by a parent)

A. Yes, of course just decide the date you wish to travel home so that we can book your ticket correctly.

Q. How do we get a roommate assigned?

A. If you have a request for a roommate, we try to honor that request. If there is no one to room with in Medjugorje they will not charge you the extra but in Dublin that is not the case and you will incur the extra charge.

Q. Where do we buy religious articles?

A. There is an abundance of shops that you will find in Medjugorje. We have those that we suggest once you are in Medjugorje. We strongly encourage you to finish your shopping in the first day or two of your pilgrimage so that you will not be preoccupied with it throughout your time in Medjugorje—

Q. What are the cut off dates to book a pilgrimage?

A. If seats are still available, we can book at the last minute, but we encourage you to book your pilgrimage ASAP. We have actually booked people on the very day the pilgrimage was leaving, but we, of course, encourage you not to wait until the last minute.

Q. Will we meet a visionary?

A. If the visionaries are in the village during your pilgrimage, we make every effort for you to be able to see them and hear them speak.

Q. Where is Medjugorje? What country?

A. *Bosnia-Herzegovina (former Yugoslavia).*

Q. Is it safe to travel to Bosnia-Herzegovina?

A. Yes, it is safe.

Q. What documentation is required for entrance into Bosnia-Herzegovina?

A. You must have an up-to-date, valid passport that **must** be valid for six months beyond your scheduled return date. It is required for each traveler, even small children or babies. A Visa is not required for pilgrims going to Medjugorje. **However, if you are not a U.S. citizen, you may be required to get a Visa.** It is very important to let us know if this is the case so we can get you the information you need.

We very strongly encourage you to make two photocopies of your passport, leaving one at home with someone who is aware of your pilgrimage to Medjugorje. The other you should carry with you, but place in a different location than where your original passport is. If you should lose your passport, this photocopy will help to get a new one quickly.

Q. How long does it take to travel to Medjugorje from the USA?

A. It can take anywhere about 22 hours to arrive in Medjugorje from Indianapolis.

Q. What kind of clothing should I bring?

A. We recommend that you dress casually. Because Medjugorje is located within a mountain range, it can be cool in the early mornings and late evenings, even in the summer months, but then quite hot in the afternoons. The normal range in June is 80 to 90 in the day and 60 to 70 degrees at evening.

All are expected to dress modestly in line with what the parish of St. James asks. No tank tops, tight clothes, gym shorts, short skirts or dresses, etc. Shorts to the knee are acceptable.

Q. Can you drink the water?

A. Yes, you can drink the water in Medjugorje it is some of the best water in Europe due to the mountains. However, the markets sell both bottled carbonated water and regular water.

Q. What is the food like?

A. The food that is served is not so different than what we eat here. Breakfast is more in line with European style; eggs and meats and cheese and bread. Dinners are served with soup as a first course, a salad and a delicious variety of meats and vegetables for entrees. The owners of the hotel have been to visit us in America and try to serve the kind of food we like.

Q. Where will we stay?

A. You will be staying at the hotel Via Villa Pace. It offers a beautiful setting and comfortable accommodations. It is located within the spiritual triangle of Apparition Mountain, St. James Church, and Cross Mountain, it is only a 5-minute walk to St. James, making it quickly accessible to Adoration at night and services. It has a wonderful view of Cross Mountain.

Q. Will we go to other sightseeing places in the region?

A. We really only have a few days to experience Medjugorje. We will visit some places very near the village including a orphanage, a church of Divine Mercy and Cenacolo, where young men recover from all kinds of addictions thru living the messages of Medjugorje. These “homes” of Cenacolo are all over the world now and in the United States we have 3.

Q. Will a priest be accompanying our group?

A. Yes, we are blessed to have **Fr. Jeffrey Godecker** coming with us.

Q. Should we bring traveler's checks or exchange our money to Euros?

A. No travels checks, but your credit cards will be fine both in Medjugorje and Dublin (Mastercard or Visa but not discover cards) or there is a place near St. James where you can change American dollars into euro and they can be used in both places. Most places in Medjugorje will use our dollars but not large bills. Your own bank or AAA will also exchange before you leave but you need to give them at least a week or more to use this service.

Q. What is the time difference in Medjugorje from the States?

A. The time difference from Medjugorje to the U.S. is as follows: six hours ahead of us.

Q. What language do they speak in Medjugorje?

A. They speak the Croatian language, which is known as Hrvatski. However, most people also know one to three other languages, including English.

Q. Can we bring electrical items, such as a hair dryer or iron, with us?

A. Yes, you can bring electrical items, but it is important to have the correct adaptors. The voltage for European outlets is 220 watts, which requires a transformer (220V to 110V) and an adapter plug (two round prongs) to make the electrical items work. Any major retail store should have them available.

Q. What reading materials do you recommend in preparation for my pilgrimage?

A. A very good book to read is **Queen of the Cosmos** and some others are: **My Heart Will Triumph** by one of the visionaries; Mirjana Soldo, **Medjugorje the Message** by Wayne Weible, **Medjugorje Day by Day; Meditations.**

Q. What are the airline requirements regarding bringing liquids onto the airplane?

A. Liquids, make-up, medicine, etc., can be brought onto the plane but they **MUST BE IN 3 OUNCE CONTAINERS OR SMALLER.** Also, all liquids, make-up, medicines, etc., **MUST BE PLACED IN A CLEAR, ZIPLOC BAGGIE.** If these requirements are not followed, you will risk having them taken from you before boarding the flight.

Q. Is it possible to get medications in Medjugorje?

A. Yes, the pharmacies have most of our medications and do not need a prescription. If you need medical help there is a very nice small hospital right in the village!

Q. Do I need to purchase travel insurance?

A. We highly recommend it, **Travel Guard** is a good company and you can find it online.

Q. Can I use my cell phone in Medjugorje?

A. You may bring your cell phone, but make sure to contact your wireless phone provider and inform them, that you will be traveling out of the country (giving them destinations). Most have an "international plan" if not get one for the trip.

Q. Will students receive credit towards their Christian Service Requirement?

A. Yes, they will complete the service requirement, however we do ask that they participate in Cathedral's Open House as a tour guide. We are hoping to volunteer at the orphanage and assist at St. James Parish a few mornings while there.