

**10 Day Pilgrimage Cruise on the MSC Armonia  
INCLUDING A VISIT TO MEDJUGORJE  
Also visiting Loreto, Santorini, Mykonos,  
Kotor, Split & Venice**



**June 26<sup>th</sup> - July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**YOUR PILGRIMAGE CRUISE INCLUDES:**

- Round trip air from JFK
- Cruise in Selected Category
- Roundtrip transfers to/from Cruise Ship
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Daily onboard the MSC Armonia
- English speaking guides
- Porterage of luggage
- First Class Hotel in Venice
- Breakfast in Venice

**HIGHLIGHTS OF YOURS CRUISE TOUR:**

- The Holy House of Loreto, Italy
- Medjugorje, Herzegovina
- Our Lady of the Rock, Montenegro
- Gondola Tour & Guided Walking Tour of Venice

**Cruise Tour Price:** Inside Cabin per person Double \$ 3,599.00  
Oceanview Cabin per person Double \$ 3,789.00  
Balcony Cabin per person Double \$ 4,269.00

**Itinerary:**

**Thu, June 26<sup>th</sup>: JFK/Venice**

Depart on your overnight flight to Venice. Dinner served in flight.



### Fri, June 27<sup>th</sup>: Venice

Departure 6:00 PM

Fall in love with its canals, bridges, palaces, churches and colorful, narrow streets. Of Venice, the American writer Henry James wrote; *"You desire to embrace it, to caress it, to possess it; and finally a soft sense of possession grows up and your visit becomes a perpetual love affair"*.

A guided tour will help you understand how this enchanting city survives, despite being built on a series of wooden poles and despite the flowing waters of the Adriatic underneath the city. World-renowned for its canals and bridges, Venice is visually stunning, thanks to its array of palaces, churches and colorful, narrow streets. On our return to Venice we will explore this wonderful city.

### Sat, June 28<sup>th</sup>: Ancona

Arrival 8:00 AM

Departure 2:00 PM

After breakfast we go ashore to meet our guide and driver who will be waiting for us to take us to the *Holy House of Loreto*.



The **Holy House of Loreto** is one of the most revered Marian shrines in the world. Since medieval times, the Holy House is believed to be the very home in which the Virgin Mary lived, conceived and raised the young Jesus.

A large basilica has been built around the small shrine, and the sacred site attracts as many as 4 million Catholic pilgrims and visitors each year.

According to the New Testament, Jesus was raised by Mary and Joseph in a small town called Nazareth, near Jerusalem. Joseph was a carpenter, and their house was humble. Three centuries after the life of Jesus, the newly-converted Emperor Constantine built a basilica over the humble brick house believed to have sheltered the Holy Family.

According to Catholic tradition, the Holy House came under threat during the turmoil of the Crusades, so in 1291, angels miraculously translated the house from its original location to a site in modern-day Croatia. An empty space was left in Nazareth and a small house suddenly appeared in a field in Croatia. The bewildered parish priest brought to the scene by shepherds who discovered it, had a vision in which the Virgin Mary revealed it was her former house.

On December 10, 1294, the house was again moved by angels because of the Muslim invasion of Albania. It landed first in Recanti, Italy, but was shortly thereafter moved for a third time to its present location in Loreto.

The Holy House of Loreto, or *Santa Casa di Loreto* in Italian, has been venerated by pilgrims great and small, including many popes and saints, and numerous miracles and healings have been reported. Scientists are said to have confirmed the materials to be the same as those found in Nazareth and the house lacks normal foundations.

The origin of the Marian shrine of Loreto is that a miraculous statue or image of the Virgin was brought from Croatia to Loreto and placed in a humble abode that came to be venerated as well.

The Statue of the Madonna was carved in cedar of Lebanon from the Vatican Gardens and was put in place of the 14<sup>th</sup> century statue that had been destroyed by a fire in the Holy House in 1921. It was commissioned by Pope Pius XI, who crowned it in the Vatican in 1922. Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century it has been garbed in a mantle called "dalmatic".

In 1469, a large basilica was built over the Holy House at Loreto, and still stands today. In 1507, a marble enclosure was constructed around the House inside the basilica, and in 1510, the site was officially approved for pilgrimages. Over the centuries, countless pilgrims have knelt inside the basilica around the Holy House, wearing a trough in the hard rock.

In 1910, Our Lady of Loreto became the *patron saint of pilots*, because of the tradition of the house's flight from Nazareth. On September 8<sup>th</sup>, the traditional birthdate of the Virgin Mary, pilots gather at the shrine to pray and participate in a colorful procession.

### Sun, June 29<sup>th</sup>: At sea.



### Mon. June 30<sup>th</sup>: Santorini, Greece      Arrival 9:00 AM      Departure 3:00 PM

Known as the Cyclades, these islands, of which **Santorini** (also called Thera) is the largest, are hugely popular with holidaymakers - indeed tourism fuels the islands' economy. Santorini was formed as the result of volcanic activity 3600 years ago and part of a smoldering live volcano (the caldera) can still be visited today.

Step off your luxury cruise ship and discover a Greek paradise; beautiful Santorini, with its white-washed buildings, blooming flowers and azure seas is the Greece of holiday brochures and sunsets here are reputed to be among the best in the world!

The capital of Santorini, Fira, competes with the other main village, Oia, both of which are perched atop cliffs and ancient caldera hills. Bustling Fira has all kinds of shops, cafes and bars; whilst on vacation here be sure to sample some of the local wine made from the Assyrtiko grape and make a purchase of gold jewelry as Santorini goldsmiths are famous worldwide. Smaller Oia is equally charming and its black sand beaches are sure to tempt sun-worshippers.

Leave time to visit Akrotiri, which is known as 'prehistoric Pompeii' following a devastating ancient earthquake and is the most important prehistoric settlement in the Eastern Mediterranean.

### Mon, July 1<sup>st</sup>: Mykonos      Arrival 8:30 PM      Departure 3:00 AM July 29<sup>th</sup>

**Mykonos** is the most famous and popular of the Greek Cyclades Islands, welcoming nearly one million vacationers every year.

Many, who think of Mykonos, automatically think of its reputation as a party island, but this beautiful destination holds many other treats that render it an ideal stopover during your Mediterranean cruise vacation.

Step off your MSC cruise ship and enter a world of color, where the azure crystal sea competes with the deep blue skies. The island's fishing industry is kept alive in the colorful waterfront cottages,

painted in different shades to help fishermen identify their homes from the sea.

Mykonos is an island rich in natural beauty and history, yet is cosmopolitan in character. You can discover Mykonos Town - also called 'Hora' - on foot; indeed the whole island of Mykonos is relatively small and thus easy to explore. Hora is considered one of the most beautiful towns on the island due to its archetypal island-postcard image. There are many excellent places to sunbathe and swim, whilst couples and honeymooners will enjoy finding the most romantic spot amidst all the idyllic scenery!

One of the best days out is found a short island-hop away in Delos, which is steeped in ancient history and legend.

MSC Cruises will help you make the most of your time off the ship with their comprehensive list of excursions and some great deals on local sights.

### **Tue, July 2<sup>nd</sup>: Depart Mykonos 3:00 AM**



### **Wed, July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Kotor Arrival 1:00 PM Departure 7:00 PM**

**Kotor** is an old Mediterranean port located on a stunning bay in Montenegro. The town is surrounded by well-preserved walls and features many landmarks which have helped earned Kotor a place on the UNESCO World heritage site list.

Interestingly, Venice had control of Kotor from 1420 to 1797 and this Italian influence can be observed in Kotor's architecture; visitors can walk through 6<sup>th</sup> century churches and explore stunning piazzas.

Montenegro is a lesser-known vacation destination but its beauty is all the more appealing for being such a well-kept secret.

### **Included Tour to Kotor & Perast**

Your excursion begins with a walking tour through the old town of **Kotor**, one of the best preserved medieval towns in this part of the Mediterranean. The asymmetric structure of the narrow streets and squares, combined with the many important medieval monuments helped secure Kotor's position as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will visit the *Maritime Museum* and the *Cathedral of St. Tripun* before continuing to the elegant town of **Perast** which built its wealth on maritime trade; the city is the most significant example of Baroque architecture on the Montenegrin coast and has numerous examples of lavish palaces and houses. We will visit the *Maritime Museum*, *St. Nicola Church* and the church of *Our Lady of Rock* which is situated on a man-made island in the middle of the beautiful Boka Bay. Please note: conservative attire is recommended for visiting sites of religious importance.

### **Thu, July 4<sup>th</sup>: Split Arrival 8:00 AM Departure 7:00 PM**

**Split** is the second-largest city in Croatia after Dubrovnik, located halfway along this country's unspoilt Adriatic coast.

Croatia still remains a relatively unknown holiday destination, but is fast gaining in popularity due to its stunning natural beauty and Roman heritage. Indeed, Split is a UNESCO Heritage Site and deeply historical; thought to be just over 1700 years old, Split is home to an assortment of impressive archaeological remains.



### **Included Tour of Medjugorje** (full day with lunch)

Located in the Herzegovina region near the Croatian border, the small town of **Medjugorje** became a popular religious pilgrimage site in 1981 in the wake of reports that the Virgin Mary had appeared to six local Catholics. Starting with a 2 ½ hour coach drive along the scenic Adriatic coastline to the town itself, you will then visit all the main attractions, including *Apparition Hill, the site where the Virgin Mary first appeared, St. James' Church and the statue of St. Leopold*. You will have the option of following your guide, praying at this important religious site or exploring the site on your own. A set of impressive bronze plaques depicting the various *Mysteries of the Rosary*, which recall the life of Christ, flanks the path up Apparition Hill. You can also choose to stay near the church and visit the outside altar, the statue of our Blessed Lady and the confessionals. The tour concludes with your return to port and your ship. Please note: guests must bring their identity documents (ID or passport) for this excursion. Children also require their own passport. For children traveling with one parent only, the local authorities require verified written consent from the other parent.

### **Fri, July 5<sup>th</sup>: Venice**

**Arrival 10:00 AM**

After breakfast we disembark and join our included tour of Venice. After our tour we transfer to our hotel.

### **Included Tour - GONDOLA TOUR & GUIDED WALKING TOUR**

No visit to the romantic city of Venice could ever be considered complete if it failed to include a trip on a typical *Venetian Gondola*, rowed by a traditional gondolier. To acquire a license to practice this old and venerable profession, a would-be gondolier must prove to have expert navigational skills, know the waterways inside out and be familiar with the city's history and landmarks. As you make your way from canal to canal, you can admire the beautiful bridges, the magnificent royal palaces and the typical narrow Venetian streets, called *calli*, from a unique perspective. The excursion includes free time in *St. Mark's Square*, home also of *St. Mark's Cathedral*, before a local guide takes you on an informative and comprehensive walk around the *calli*. The tour draws to a close with your return to your ship at the port.

### **Sat, July 6<sup>th</sup>: Venice/USA**

Morning departure to Venice Marco Polo airport for our return flight to the USA.

## Reservation Form

<b>Tour No. ARM0626</b>		
Name (as it appears on your passport):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Email address:	
Will your room be a: ( ) single (limited) ( ) double ( ) triple		
Cabin Category ( ) Inside ( ) Oceanview ( ) Balcony		
Name of Roommate:		
Are you a US citizen? ( ) Yes ( ) No      Date of Birth		
Passport No.	Expiration Date	
Contact in US	Relationship	Telephone No
<p><b>Please return this form with your check to:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LITTLE FLOWER TOURS &amp; TRAVEL, LTD.</b>          145 Fieldstone Road,          Staten Island, New York 10314          ☎ 718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373  <b>A \$700.00 DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING</b>  <b>FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE MARCH 1, 2014</b></p>		
<p><b>TERMS AND CONDITIONS:</b> Cancellation made by passengers. Of the \$700.00 deposit, \$300.00 is non-refundable in case of cancellation. 70 days to 46 days a \$700.00 penalty is imposed. 45 days to 16 days a \$700.00 penalty PLUS any penalty imposed by the airlines and hotels. 15 days or less may result in loss of entire cost, depending on what we can recover. Once travel has commenced, no refunds for unused portions can be made. <b>TRAVEL INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE AND ADVISABLE</b> If you have a pre-existing condition, it is important that you take Travel Insurance within 10 days of booking.  <b>Insurance on this trip is \$ 250.00 per person double or triple.</b>  <b>\$ 290.00 per person single</b></p>		
Signature:	Date:	

Credit card ( ) MasterCard ( ) Visa ( ) American Express	
Account #:	Expiration date:
Name (as it appears on your card)	
Billing Address:	
Amount to be charged: \$	
Signature:	Date:

**“EVERYONE MUST FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SIGN IT BELOW.”** If you are NOT taking the Travel Insurance you must still fill out the Insurance form below and indicate NO in the premium box and return it with your reservation form.

**Please note that insurance is strongly recommended but is optional.** If you want to receive a waiver for pre-existing conditions, your premium must be received by Little Flower Tours within 10 days of your initial trip deposit/payment, **provided you are not disabled from travel at the time of your premium payment. Insurance payments are non-refundable.**

<b>Tour Number</b>	<b>Tour Name</b>	<b>Premium</b>
<b>Tour No. ARM0626</b>	<b>11 Day Pilgrimage Cruise Tour</b>	<b>\$ 250.00 Double/Triple \$ 290.00 Single</b>

Insurance Form		<b>Tour No. ARM0626</b>	
Name			
Address:			
W	City:	State:	
Zip:			
Telephone:	Are you a US citizen? ( ) Yes ( ) No		
Additional Family Names			
<b>I will take the Insurance ( ) Yes ( ) No</b>			
<b>Premium \$ 250.00 per person Double/Triple \$ 290.00 per person Single</b>			
<b>Please make your Insurance Premium check payable to Little Flower Tours &amp; Travel Ltd.:</b>			
<b>LITTLE FLOWER TOURS &amp; TRAVEL, LTD.</b> 145 Fieldstone Road, Staten Island, New York 10314  718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373			
<b>If you want to receive a waiver for a pre-existing condition, your premium must be received by Little Flower Tours within 10 days of your initial trip deposit</b>			
Signature		Date	