

16 Day Pilgrimage Cruise Tour on the MSC Armonia INCLUDING A FULL DAY TOUR TO MEDJUGORJE

Also visiting Assisi, Ancona, Santorini, Mykonos, Kotor, Split, Venice,
Loreto, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, St. Michael's Cave, Pietrelcina & Rome



July 23rd – August 6th, 2014

YOUR PILGRIMAGE CRUISE INCLUDES:

- Round trip air from JFK or Newark
- Cruise in Selected Category
- Roundtrip transfers to/from Cruise Ship
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Daily onboard the MSC Armonia
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guide
- Porterage of luggage
- All taxes and service charges
- First Class Hotel in Italy
- Breakfast & dinner Daily in Italy

HIGHLIGHTS OF YOURS CRUISE TOUR:

- The Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi
- The Tombs of St. Francis & St. Clare
- The Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli
- Medjugorje, Herzegovina
- Our Lady of the Rock, Montenegro
- Gondola Tour & Guided Walking Tour
- The Holy House of Loreto
- The Eucharistic Miracle of Lanciano
- The Basilica of Santa Maria delle Grazie
- The Tomb of Padre Pio in the Church of St. Pio of Pietrelcina
- Pietrelcina home town of Padre Pio
- Panorama of Rome including a visit of St. Peter's Basilica

Cruise Tour Price: Inside Cabin per person Double \$ 4,399.00
Oceanview Cabin per person Double \$ 4,549.00
Balcony Cabin per person Double \$ 4,999.00

Itinerary:

Wed, July 23rd: JFK/ROME - Depart on your overnight flight to Rome. Dinner served in flight.

Thu, July 24th: Rome/Assisi - Upon arrival at Rome airport we are transferred to **Assisi**. In Assisi we visit the *Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli* where we find the *Porziuncola*. Next we check into our hotel. After time to rest, we visit to *Basilicas of St. Francis and St. Clare*, where we see the *Tombs of the two Saints*.

Fri, July 25th: Assisi - Free day for private devotion.

Sat, July 26th: Assisi/Ancona **Your ship departs at 2:00 PM**

This morning we cross over to the Adriatic coast en route to **Ancona** where we board our **MSC Cruise ship the MSC Armonia**. Time to get to know your ship before our 2:00 PM departure.

Sun, July 27th: At sea.



Mon. July 28th: 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.

At 3:00 PM we set sail for Mykonos.



Mon, July 28th: Mykonos Arrival 8:30 PM Departure 3:00 AM July 29th

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 29th: Leaving Mykonos 3:00 AM

Wed, July 30th: 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 6th 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 31st: 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, Aug 1st: Venice **Arrival 10:00 AM** **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 higgledy-piggledy array of palaces, churches and colorful, narrow streets.

The main tourist sites, St Mark's Square and the Doge Palace are famous for good reason and should not be missed whilst on holiday here. A lovely way to spend the day is to combine a gondola and

walking tour: a gondola ride is another 'must-do' experience, whilst the secrets and history of Venice's 'calli' (streets) will be revealed to you by your knowledgeable guide.

You may leave Venice with many tangible souvenirs, but the most lasting souvenir will be your impression of the city itself.

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, Aug 2nd: Ancona/Loreto/Lanciano/San Giovanni Rotondo - After breakfast we bid farewell to our crew. Our guide and driver will be waiting for us to take us to our first stop today, 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 14th 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 16th 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 kneeled 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 8th, the traditional birthdate of the Virgin Mary, pilots gather at the shrine to pray and participate in a colorful procession.

After our visit we continue to **Lanciano**. The most popular of the Eucharistic Miracles is the *Miracle of Lanciano*. A monk was having doubts and his doubts were growing stronger. One morning during Mass, at the Consecration, he began to shake and tremble and faced the people to show them what had happened. The Host had turned to Flesh and the wine into Blood! After our visit, we have free time for lunch (on our own) before continuing to **San Giovanni Rotondo**.

Sun, Aug 3rd: San Giovanni Rotondo/St. Michael's Cave - Today we go to the English Office for a talk on Padre Pio. Next we visit the new *Church of St. Pio of Pietrelcina* to see *Padre Pio's Tomb*. After our visit, we go to **St. Michael's Cave** where St. Michael the Archangel appeared. In the year 492 a man named Gargan was pasturing his large herds in the countryside. One day a bull fled into the mountain, where at first it could not be found. When its refuge in a cave was discovered, an arrow was shot into the cave, but the arrow returned to wound the one who had sent it. Faced with so mysterious an occurrence, the persons concerned decided to consult the bishop of the region. He ordered three days of fasting and prayers. After three days, the Archangel St. Michael appeared to the bishop and declared that the cavern where the bull had taken refuge was under his protection, and that God wanted it to be consecrated under his name and in honor of all the Holy Angels.

Mon, Aug 4th: San Giovanni Rotondo - Free day for private devotions.

Tue, Aug, 5th: San Giovanni Rotondo/Pietrelcina/Rome - Morning departure to **Rome**. En route we visit **Pietrelcina**, *birthplace of Padre Pio*. We visit his home, the *Church of Santa Ana*, where he was baptized and *Santa Maria degli Angeli*. Next we stop at **Piana Romana** to visit the place where *Padre Pio received the invisible stigmata*. After our visit, we continue to Rome.

Wed, Aug 6th: Panorama of Rome - This morning we have a *Panorama of Rome*. We see the *Coliseum, the Roman Forum and the monument to Victor Emmanuel*. We leave our bus for a walk through Rome. We start at *Piazza Navona* where we see the artist square and the cafes that line it. Minstrels pass from cafe to café entertaining the tourist. We continue through the side streets of Rome to the *Parthenon*. We our walk ends at the *Trevi Fountain* where we stop to throw our coins in the Fountain. We end our tour at St. Peter's Basilica where we have a guided tour of the Basilica.

Thu, Aug 7th: Rome/USA - Morning departure to Rome airport for our return flight to the USA.

Reservation Form


Tour No. ARM0723		
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>Please return this form with your check to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">LITTLE FLOWER TOURS & TRAVEL, LTD. 145 Fieldstone Road, Staten Island, New York 10314 ☎ 718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373 A \$700.00 DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE April 6, 2014</p>		
<p>TERMS AND CONDITIONS: 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. TRAVEL INSURANCE IS AVAILABLE AND ADVISABLE If you have a pre-existing condition, it is important that you take Travel Insurance within 10 days of booking. Insurance on this trip is \$ 260.00 per person double</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.**

Tour Number	Tour Name	Premium
Tour No. ARM0723	16 Day Pilgrimage Cruise Tour	\$ 260.00 Double/Triple

Insurance Form		Tour No. ARM0723	
Name			
Address:			
W	City:	State:	
Zip:			
Telephone:	Are you a US citizen? () Yes () No		
Additional Family Names			
I will take the Insurance () Yes () No			
Premium \$ 260.00 per person Double/Triple			
Please make your Insurance Premium check payable to Little Flower Tours & Travel Ltd.:			
LITTLE FLOWER TOURS & TRAVEL, LTD. 145 Fieldstone Road, Staten Island, New York 10314  718-761-1251 or outside NY call 888-843-7373			
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			
Signature		Date	