

## 13 Day Pilgrimage Cruise on the MSC FANTASIA INCLUDING A FULL DAY TOUR OF MEDJUGORJE visiting Italy, Croatia, Greece, Turkey, Malta

**Ports of Call: Venice, Bari, Dubrovnik, Piraeus, Heraklion,  
Marmaris, Valletta, Messina, Civitavecchia, Genoa**



**November 1<sup>st</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

### **YOUR PILGRIMAGE CRUISE INCLUDES:**

- Round trip air from New York
- Cruise in Oceanview Cabins
- Roundtrip transfers to/from Cruise Ship
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Daily onboard the MSC Fantasia
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guides
- Porterage of luggage
- All taxes and service charges

### **INCLUDED TOURS ON THE MSC FANTASIA:**

- BARI CITY TOUR
- MEDJUGORJE WHERE THE VIRGIN MARY APPEARED
- ATHENS & ACROPOLIS
- VALLETTA AND MDINA
- TINDARI & THE SANCTUARY OF BLACK MADONNA
- GRAND TOUR OF ROME, THE ETERNAL CITY

**Pilgrimage Cruise Price: \$ 3,359.00 Oceanview Cabin per person Double**

**Call for rates in other Categories**

### **Itinerary:**

**Sat, Nov 1<sup>st</sup>: New York/Venice** - Depart JFK or Newark airport on your overnight flight to Venice. Dinner served in flight.

**Sun, Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>: Venice Depart 5:00 PM**

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”*.

The main tourist sites of Venice are *St Mark's Square* and the *Doge Palace*. A lovely way to spend the day is to combine a gondola and walking tour. You may leave Venice with many tangible souvenirs, but the most lasting souvenir will be your impression of the city itself. **We set sail at 5:00 PM**

**Mon, Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>: Bari**                      **Arrival 12 Noon**                      **Departure 6:00 PM**

Situated in the 'heel' of the boot-shaped country that is Italy, **Bari** is famous for its beaches, old town and fabulous food. An increasingly popular holiday destination, Bari is the commercial and administrative capital of Puglia as well as being a bustling university town. Bari offers much for the visitor to do and a fun day away from the ship with something for everyone, from families to couples looking for a magical romantic setting.

**Included Tour - BARI CITY TOUR**

This interesting tour of Bari gives you a chance to take a leisurely walk around the historical quarter of "Bari Vecchia" and its medieval architecture. A visit to the Basilica of St. Nicholas, which was built in honor of Bari's patron saint, is included. Founded towards the end of the 11<sup>th</sup> century A.D., the basilica has now been an important religious pilgrimage site for nearly a millennium. An exterior viewing of Bari's old Norman castle is also on the tour itinerary. You will have some free time to spend as you wish before the tour is rounded out with a quick trip around the city's modern district. The tour ends with your return to the ship.

**Tue, Nov 4<sup>th</sup>: Dubrovnik**                      **Arrival 7:00 AM**                      **Departure 7:00 PM**

"Those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik" so wrote the famed British playwright, George Bernard Shaw when he first visited the town.

**Dubrovnik** is the capital of South Dalmatia, in Croatia and reputed to be one of the most beautiful places in the world. Many writers and holiday-makers remain enthralled by its charm and the town is fondly known as both the Adriatic Pearl and the Slav 'Athens'. Anyone who has the chance to visit at least once will surely agree.

**Included Tour - 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 Dubrovnik port and your ship. Please note: Masses are celebrated in only one language at fixed times. In Medjugorje your guide may be accompanied by a local tourist escort.

**Wed, Nov 5<sup>th</sup>: At Sea**

**Thu, Nov 6<sup>th</sup>: Piraeus (Port of Athens)**                      **Arrival 7:30 AM**                      **Departure 4:30 PM**

"Athens, the eye of Greece, mother of arts and eloquence" so wrote Milton in his poem *Paradise Regained*, and Athens truly is a city of 'art and eloquence'.

Your cruise ship will dock in the port of Piraeus, which serves **Athens**, the capital of Greece. Athens is dominated by the flat-topped hill of the Acropolis site of the Parthenon, one of the most famous classical monuments in the world.

Athens has always exuded a unique charm, its lively character seducing thousands of visitors every year. Street markets, vine-covered taverns, souvenir stalls and ancient monuments are all part of Athens, making it a unique vacation destination.

### **Included Tour - ATHENS & ACROPOLIS**

Take some time off the ship and head for Athens for a comprehensive sightseeing tour through the main streets and squares of a city steeped in classical history. Not only is Athens widely regarded as the cradle of western civilization and the birthplace of modern democracy, it is also a cornucopia of visual delights you will not want to miss. After the city tour, you will continue on to Athens' premiere landmark: the imposing Acropolis, a plateau that overlooks the town at a height of 150 metres. Among various other examples of classical Grecian architecture, the site is home to the world-famous Parthenon, a huge temple dedicated to the ancient Greek goddess, Athena, and one of the world's greatest cultural monuments. A brief stop will be made for some souvenir shopping before the tour concludes with your return to the ship.

### **Fri, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>: Heraklion      Arrival 7:30 AM      Departure 4:30 PM**

Full of ancient lore and legend, the city of **Heraklion** on the Greek island of **Crete** is steeped in history. Inhabited for over 10,000 years, Crete holds a special place in Greek mythology and was an influential location in the evolution of Hellenic civilization.

A highlight of your visit to Heraklion will be touring the ruins of the Minoan Palace of Knossos, believed to contain the original Labyrinth of the Minotaur and a staggering 3,700 years old. But more contemporary pleasures also lie in store for our vacationing cruise guests too.

Of note is the outstanding Archaeological Museum, one of the best in Greece. Visitors will find a fascinating mix of architectural styles in both Heraklion and the surrounding villages, ranging from Byzantine to Moorish; under the warm Grecian sun you can stroll the pretty streets of villages such as Rethymnon or Fodele, birthplace of the legendary 16<sup>th</sup> century painter, El Greco. Situated nine miles outside Heraklion is the recently-opened Crete aquarium: here you can help children balance ancient attractions with modern-day distractions!

Culture, food, wine, legends, mythology and fun – Heraklion boasts a gloriously rich array of activities to suit all tastes and interests.

### **Sat, Nov 8<sup>th</sup>: Marmaris      Arrival 8:00 AM      Departure 6:00 PM**

**Marmaris** is a port city and key holiday destination in southwest Turkey. The area's main source of income is tourism, and Marmaris is viewed as Turkey's most sophisticated resort. The city, in some form, has existed since the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC when it was known as Physcus. According to historians, Marmaris has had a castle since 3000 BC and a 16<sup>th</sup> century fortress can still be seen there today.

Marmaris is a former fishing village that experienced a construction boom during the 1980s, leading to many modern amenities such as shops and a wealth of bars and restaurants.

However, the town still retains its charm as it is set in an exceptional location of natural beauty; rugged mountains provide a stunning backdrop to the sheltered harbor.

Our excursions, which boast great deals on local attractions, include city tours of the historic areas in Marmaris as well as trips to the pretty villages of Dalyan, Icmeler and Osmaniye further afield.

Experience the traditions of yesteryear: no vacation to Turkey is complete without witnessing the skills of carpet-makers or sampling the local sweets and tea.

We invite you to join us in Marmaris - a charismatic city and a true 'Turkish delight'!

### Sun, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>: At Sea

### Mon, Nov 10<sup>th</sup>: Valletta      Arrival 8:00 AM      Departure 6:00 PM

**La Valletta** is a city situated on the island of Malta, which lies 60 miles south of Sicily. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, here you'll find 7000 years of history living passionately in the present.

You will span the millennia with an astonishing array of things to discover. Wherever you go, the island's scenery and architecture provide a spectacular backdrop to your holiday here.

As soon as you step off your luxury MSC cruise ship, you'll be struck by the colors: honey-colored stone contrasted against the deepest of Mediterranean blues.

Get ready for a delightful day off ship; we'll help you plan your time by proposing an array of great excursion packages, outings and attractive deals on day trips.

A popular vacation destination, La Valletta is crammed full of cafés, bars, restaurants and well as interesting landmarks that the whole family can enjoy.

#### **Included Tour - VALLETTA AND MDINA**

Visit the Barraka gardens with their wonderful panoramic view over the Great Harbour before moving on to the lovely St. John's Cathedral which dates back to the ancient Knights of Malta and is rich in treasures, including masterpieces by Caravaggio. On to Mdina, known as the "silent town" and which is dominated by the Baroque style St. Paul's Cathedral; we will visit St. Paul's before walking the narrow streets of this medieval city. Return to the ship. Please note: the visit to Mdina is entirely on foot with walking on long distances so this tour is not recommended for guests with mobility problems. There might be restrictions in shooting videos or taking pictures inside the Cathedrals.

### Tue, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>: Messina      Arrival 8:00 AM      Departure 2:00 PM

Located on the Messina Straits and with a large natural harbor, Messina is one of the busiest ports in the Mediterranean. Its strategic location just five kilometers from the Italian mainland has made it an important site for silk, textile and chemical industries and a regular a port for ferries and cruise liners.

A holiday stopover in **Messina** provides a spiritual dimension to your vacation with a tour to the 'picture-perfect' town of Tindari, which is home to the ancient black Madonna.

#### **Included Tour - TINDARI & THE SANCTUARY OF BLACK MADONNA**

An enjoyable 1-hour coach transfer from Messina begins this tour to Tindari, a small coastal town of Greek origin that is rich in art and history. It is particularly known for the Sanctuary of the Black Madonna, a site you will visit to view the statue of the Madonna. A romantic local legend has it that Tindari's lagoon was created after a woman accidentally dropped her baby into the ocean upon being startled by the black colour of the statue, whereupon the Madonna is said to have made the land rise to save the child. A visit to a Greek archaeological site is next, with a chance to step back in time and get a unique insight into early Grecian life. There will be time for you do some shopping in Tindari before you return to Messina and your ship. Please note: conservative attire is recommended

for visiting sites of religious importance. Shooting videos or taking photos may be prohibited inside the Sanctuary.

**Wed, Nov 12<sup>th</sup>: Civitavecchia Arrival 8:00 AM Departure 7:00 PM**

**Rome** – where do we start? It is the ultimate vacation destination. There is perhaps no other city so crammed full of history, with layer upon layer of fabulous ruins, imperial temples...not to mention Etruscan tombs, early Christian churches, medieval bell towers, Renaissance palaces and baroque basilicas.

And all of these magnificent sights lie under the extraordinary warmth and light of the Roman sun. Rome truly is a dream city and will undoubtedly be one of the highlights of your Mediterranean cruise.

**Included Tour - GRAND TOUR OF ROME, THE ETERNAL CITY**

This excursion combines two of the most important aspects of Rome: Christianity and antiquity. Your bus transfer to Rome is 1 ½ hours. In Rome we meet our guide and start the tour with a visit to the Coliseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre. We will look around this impressive edifice, built to hold up to 50,000 people and where the Romans used to watch the cruel gladiators combats. The tour continues with a stroll around Piazza Navona, Trevi Fountain and the Pantheon, an ancient temple built in honor of seven important Roman deities. Stop for lunch in a typical Italian restaurant. The afternoon will be dedicated to the home of Christianity as we pay a visit to St. Peter's Square: free time to explore the square or to visit the Basilica independently after receiving information from the guide outside the site. After leaving our guide in Rome we will return to the port. Please note: this tour is almost entirely made on foot and is not suitable for guests with walking difficulties. During the autumn and the winter, it may be dusk when we visit some of the sites. The restaurant lunch may be earlier or later depending on the day of call. Conservative attire is recommended for visiting sites of religious importance.

**Thu, Nov 13<sup>th</sup>: Genoa/USA Arrival 9:00 AM**

Cradled between land and sea and with a working port, the Italian vacation destination of **Genoa** on the west coast of Italy displays its past through her many palaces and the surrounding ancient terraced hills.

Genoa has many different faces; at once a modern metropolis and a rigorous custodian of artistic heritage, as well as an industrious marketplace with centuries-old parks perfect for relaxation. Genoa hides her riches in an historical center that looks traditionally seaward yet at the same time exhibits a new beauty achieved by restoring the splendor of ages past.

We will help you on the fastest route to uncovering Genoa's gems through our fantastically diverse program of day trip packages and the best deals on sights and attractions. If you can bring yourself to leave your luxury MSC cruise ship, Genoa is a great place to spend the day. Just some of the exciting highlights on offer include an historic city tour where you can roam the attractive, sinuous streets of the old town and take in key places of interest.

Art-lovers will particularly enjoy the works by Rubens in the Palazzo Ducale (Ducal Palace). Already familiar with Genoa? Then we heartily recommend an excursion to the enchanting seaside village of Portofino on Italy's Riviera. Finally, as always, we cater to all cruise guests, so why not ensure that your youngsters have a great day away from ship, too! Take the family to Genoa's acclaimed aquarium (one of Europe's largest) and create some great holiday memories for everyone.

After breakfast we depart to the airport for our return flight to the USA.

**Reservation Form**

<b>Tour No. FAN1101</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 the USA	Telephone No.	Relationship
Please return this form with your check to: <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  A \$700.00 DEPOSIT IS DUE AT TIME OF BOOKING <b>FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE August 1, 2014</b>		
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. <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>In the event that a group does not travel due to low participation, passenger deposits will be returned 30 days after cancellation.</b>		
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
<b>FAN1101</b>	<b>13 Pilgrimage Cruise Tour</b>	<b>\$ 220.00 Double/Triple</b> <b>\$ 295.00 Single</b>

Insurance Form		<b>Tour Number FAN1101</b>	
Name			
Address:			
W	City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:		Are you a US citizen? ( ) Yes ( ) No	
Additional Family Names			
I will take the Insurance ( ) Yes ( ) No			
<b>Premium \$ 220.00 per person Double/Triple \$ 295.00 per person Single</b>			
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	