

## 13 Day Pilgrimage Cruise on the MSC Opera to United Kingdom, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal, France



July 8<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

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

- Round trip air from JFK or Newark
- Cruise in Oceanview Cabins
- Roundtrip transfers to/from Cruise Ship
- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner Daily onboard the MSC Opera
- Air-conditioned motor coach
- English speaking guide
- Porterage of luggage
- All taxes and service charges
- First Class Hotel in London
- Return transfer to Heathrow Airport

### **INCLUDED TOURS:**

- SCENIC DRIVE AND VISIT “THE LITTLE CHAPEL” - St Peter Port, United Kingdom
- SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - Vigo, Spain
- FATIMA - Lisbon, Portugal
- TOUR OF THE NORMANDY LANDING BEACHES – This is the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normandy Landing
- THE BASILICA OF ST. THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS - Lisieux
- VISIT THE CARMEL OF ST. THERESE - Lisieux
- STONEHENGE, WINDSOR AND A PANORAMA OF LONDON

**Cruise Tour Price: Oceanview Cabin per person Double \$ 3,949.00**

**Call for rates in other Categories**

## **ITINERARY:**

**Tues, July 8<sup>th</sup>: New York/London**

**Wed, July 9<sup>th</sup>: London/Southampton** - You set sail at 4:00 PM

**Southampton** is a large port city located on the south coast of England. Situated in the pretty county of Hampshire, Southampton is a gateway to many of southern England's historic attractions.

A university town, Southampton is home to one of the longest medieval walls in England as well as a fascinating Tudor House Museum (built in 1496), so simply staying in town will make for a pleasant day away from your luxury cruise ship.

**Thu, July 10<sup>th</sup>: Ijmuiden, Netherlands**      **Arrival 10:30 AM**      **Depart 6:00 PM**

**Ijmuiden** (meaning mouth of the river IJ) is a port city in the Dutch province of North Holland. Ijmuiden (pronounced 'eye-mouden') is known as the 'Gateway to the Netherlands' due to its proximity to many of Holland's most popular cities.

Ijmuiden is only 17 miles from Amsterdam and is close to the picturesque region of Zaanse Schans, a conservation area and inhabited open-air museum famous for its windmills.

For those already familiar with Amsterdam, the heritage market town of Haarlem is just 15 minutes from Ijmuiden; more relaxing than Holland's busy capital, Haarlem is compact and lively and will make for a very pleasant day off your cruise ship. Haarlem gave its name to America's 'Harlem' in the days when New York was a Dutch colony known as 'New Amsterdam'. Don't miss Haarlem's quaint old district which is centered around the Grote Markt or 'market square'.

Relax with a boat trip along Haarlem's canals or soak up history in the city's equivalent to the Anne Frank museum: Corrie Ten Boom is a museum and former home that pays homage to a courageous family that hid Jews during the Nazi occupation. All it takes is a few hours away from your cruise ship to experience a slice of authentic Holland and to discover some wonderful, but lesser-known cities during your European cruise vacation.



**Fri, July 11<sup>th</sup>: St Peter Port**      **Arrival 2:00 PM**      **Depart 7:00 PM**

**St Peter Port** is the capital of Guernsey, one of the Channel Islands located off the coast of Normandy. Although closer to France than to England, Guernsey is still loyal to the British crown; administratively independent, it has its own currency and stamps.

With a warmer climate than Britain, Guernsians enjoy life 'al fresco', and St Peter Port pays testament to this with its bustling collection of waterside cafes and bars, and accessible, pretty beaches.

St Peter Port is hailed as 'the Channel Islands' most beautiful town' and there is much to see and do while on vacation here. With its 'low duty' (no VAT) status, you can indulge in some holiday shopping; perhaps traditional Guernsey jumpers for the whole family, or a treat from the Guernsey Pearl workshop; with its displays of thousands of pearls, gems can be strung or set for you. More

jewels are found at the Guernsey Diamond Museum, which shows these stones from their origins to their settings. The Channel Islands are famed for flower production.

**Included Tour:**

**SCENIC DRIVE AND “THE LITTLE CHAPEL” - St Peter Port, United Kingdom**

This panoramic tour of Guernsey’s wild and rocky coastline also includes a visit to the Little Chapel, which is possibly the world’s smallest church. From Saint Peter Port, you head north past the harbor at Saint Sampson and on to L’Ancresse Bay. The parish of Vale, which used to be a separate island, affords fine views of some of the coastal fortifications built during World War II. A short drive inland takes you to the 19<sup>th</sup> century brick kilns at the Oatlands site for afternoon tea. Then it’s on to the cliffs at Pleinmont Point and the broad sandy expanses of Vazon Bay and Rocquaine Bay, the latter of which is also home to Fort Grey and its Martello tower. A scenic drive inland then takes you to the Little Chapel for a short photo stop. Built in 1914 as a miniature version of the grotto at Lourdes, this tiny church is beautifully decorated with seashells, pebbles and colorful shards of broken china. Your tour ends with your return to the ship. Please note : the bus driver will be your guide; information available only in English.

**Sat, July 12<sup>th</sup>: At Sea**



**Sun, July 13<sup>th</sup>: Vigo Arrival 9:00 AM Depart 3:00 PM**

**Vigo** is a beautiful town located in the region of Galicia, the ‘green heart’ of Spain, located on the northeast coast.

MSC Cruises guests visiting Vigo will delight in finding an area that is un-crowded, where they can experience an authentic taste of Spain and local life.

Make the most of your Mediterranean cruise vacation and explore further afield – the mythical town of Santiago de Compostela, a UNESCO heritage site, is a coach ride away.

**Included Tour:**

**SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA - Vigo, Spain**

From the port of Vigo on the Atlantic coast, a pleasant 1 ½ hour coach ride will take you to the historical city of Santiago de Compostela, one of Spain’s most important religious centers. The city’s splendid cathedral and old quarter are both listed as UNESCO world heritage sites. You will have an opportunity to amble through the streets, narrow alleys and tiny squares before continuing on foot to the Plaza do Obradoiro, which is situated at the heart of the city and was named after the stonemason’s workshop that was established there while the cathedral was being built. An external viewing of the cathedral, an eclectic blend of various architectural styles including Baroque, gives you an opportunity to take some photos before your tour is brought to a close with your return to the port.



**Mon, July 14<sup>th</sup>: Lisbon      Arrival 9:00 AM      Depart 5:00 PM**

**Lisbon** is the capital of Portugal and the westernmost capital city in Europe. With its sweeping views of the Atlantic Ocean and over 20 centuries of history, there is no shortage of landmarks to visit in this beguiling holiday town. From gothic to post-modern, the city's rich cultural history envelopes you as you stroll the streets under one of the most comfortable year-round climates.

With its elegant squares and the distinctive character of intriguing districts such as Alfama and Baixa, Lisbon's atmosphere is more sunny and cheerful than its melancholy musical heritage of Fado folk songs would have you believe!

Discover the gigantic Christ King (Cristo Rei) statue overlooking Lisbon from the Tagus River, and the Vasco da Gama Bridge, one of the longest structures of its kind in Europe.

**Included Tour:**

**FATIMA - Lisbon, Portugal**

Those interested in theology and religious mysteries can look forward to a special day out in Fatima. We will leave the port of Lisbon for a 1 ½ hour drive coach crossing the Portuguese plains to reach this important religious destination. This site has been visited annually by millions of pilgrims since 1917 when three shepherds saw a vision of the Virgin Mary here. Visit the Shrine and the chapel where the Holy Virgin appeared before enjoying some free time in Fatima to stroll around or to shop for souvenirs. Lunch included. Guides will give explanations from outside the site; guests will proceed to inside visits individually. Conservative attire is recommended for visiting places of religious importance.

**Tue, July 15<sup>th</sup>: At Sea**

**Wed, July 16<sup>th</sup>: Bilbao      Arrival 9:00 AM      Depart 5:00 PM**

A vibrant, energetic metropolis with a relaxed atmosphere, the Spanish city of **Bilbao** is the capital of Spain's Basque region, located on the country's north coast.

An important industrial centre and seaport, Bilbao is rapidly gaining a reputation for innovation thanks to exciting urban regeneration projects that are driving development around the Gulf of Biscay.

The stunning Guggenheim Museum designed by Frank Gehry with its sinewy, steel-clad exterior draws fans of contemporary architecture from around the world. With a very agreeable, temperate oceanic climate, Bilbao is conducive to walking tours and general sightseeing.

Culture vultures will fall in love with this city which has a packed arts calendar year-round and two of the best art galleries in Spain.

A vibrant, energetic metropolis with a relaxed atmosphere, Bilbao holds its own against European capital cities and is becoming a sophisticated holiday hotspot. We aim to help you plan your day away from your luxury MSC cruise liner with ease by offering a complete program of excursion

packages and day trip deals that suit everyone from honeymooning couples to active families!

With the presence of the Guggenheim Museum, art is certainly on the menu in this city, but those who prefer to explore the soul of Bilbao can wander the back streets of Casco Viejo - the old town.

Ensure you don't return to the ship empty handed and check out the boutiques around Plaza Moyúa and the Gran Via. Bilbao offers the best of European city pleasures and is a great up-and-coming vacation destination on our Northern Europe itinerary.

### Thu, July 17<sup>th</sup>: At Sea

### Fri, July 18<sup>th</sup>: Le Havre

Arrival 9:00 AM

Depart 9:00 PM

Normandy Landing Beaches 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary & Lisieux. Depart from your cruise ship in the port of Le Harve at 9:00 AM. We visit: La Cambe, Ste Mére Eglise, driving by Utah Beach to Roosevelt Café for lunch\*, Pointe du Hoc, Omaha Beach, the American Cemetery and Interpretive Center. On our return to Le Harve we stop in Lisieux to visit the Carmel of St. Therese of Lisieux and for Mass at the Basilica of St. Therese of the Child Jesus. The tour will end at 8.00 pm at our Cruise Ship in Le Harve.

### Included Tour:

**Tour of the Normandy Landing Beaches - the Basilica of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Lisieux & visit the Carmel of St. Therese**

**This year Normandy is celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Normandy Landings**

### Sainte-Mère-Église



### Sainte-Mère-Église and John Steele

One of the most disastrous drops occurred in Sainte-Mère-Église. Around midnight, a stray incendiary bomb set fire to the house of Monsieur Harion, located to the east of the square.

Wakened by the mayor and the tolling of the church bell, the townspeople turned out in large numbers to form a bucket brigade supervised by members of the German garrison. While the house continued to burn, the drone of planes could be heard over the tolling bell. The fire-fighters, looking skyward, saw ghostly silhouettes drifting down on them. Two sticks from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions had gotten their green jump light directly over the village. Illuminated by light from the burning house and tracers from German AA guns, the paratroopers were easy targets for the Germans below. Few survived.

One who did survive was Private John Steele, whose parachute caught on the steeple of the church. The wounded paratrooper hung there limply for two hours, pretending to be dead, before the Germans took him prisoner.

The less fortunate hung from the trees all around the square where they had been shot. Once the fire in Monsieur Harion's house had burned out and the last of the paratroopers were killed or captured, the German garrison called it an evening and turned in.

A mile northeast of Sainte-Mère-Église, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Krause, commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, assembled 90 men and promptly ordered an advance on the village. Around dawn, the German garrison was again turned out, this time by the rattle of small-arms fire. Krause's men cleared the village in a rush, capturing thirty Germans and killing another eleven. With Sainte-Mère-Église in American hands, Krause ran a worn American flag to the top of the village flagpole, a flag that he had carried with him from Sicily.

D-Day ended with the Americans still in control of Sainte-Mère-Église and further German attacks during the night failed to dislodge them. For their roles in the capture and defense of Sainte-Mère-Église both Krause and Col. Vandervoort received the Distinguished Service Cross.

By the afternoon of the 6<sup>th</sup>, the paratroopers made contact with elements of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division moving inland from Utah Beach. They had cut N 13 at Sainte-Mère-Église, thereby preventing the Germans from reinforcing the beach area. By their reduction of strong points at the beach exits, they greatly aided in the movement of the 4<sup>th</sup> Division off Utah Beach. Much hard fighting lay ahead to clear enemy resistance in the Carentan area, and forge a linkup between the two American beachheads. But it was apparent that Eisenhower's decision to go ahead with the night drop of the two American airborne divisions had been sound.

### Utah Beach

General Omar N. Bradley called the assault landing on Utah Beach «a piece of cake», and it was, compared to that on Omaha.

The landing plan called for the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Major General Raymond O. Barton) to land along 2,200 yards of sandy beach on a two-regiment front, two battalions abreast. Colonel James A. Van Fleet's 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry to land at 0630 followed by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry in eighty-five minutes and the 12<sup>th</sup> Infantry at 1030.

DD tanks were to lead the way in, preceded by an intense naval and air bombardment. Various engineer units were scheduled to land close behind the infantry to clear beach obstructions and to blow gaps in the low sea wall paralleling the beach.

The landing of the thirty-two DD tanks was delayed when one of the control ships was sunk by a mine. Four of the tanks were lost when the LCT carrying them sank before they could be launched. In contrast to the heavy losses off Omaha, twenty-eight DD's made it to the beach able to provide fire support for the infantry already ashore.



### Brigadier General Roosevelt

The strong offshore current carried the first wave of infantry some 2,000 yards south, causing the boats to beach in front of the German strong point at La Grande Dune. Fortunately, the defenses there were much weaker than those on the intended beach, due in part to visual bombing by the medium bombers of the IX Bomber Command and naval fire support.

Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, assistant division commander, landed with the first wave, the only general officer to do so on D-Day. Shortly after coming ashore, Roosevelt, disregarding his

personal safety, surveyed the beach before him and made two decisions that decisively influenced the course of the battle. Realizing that he and the first wave had landed a mile south of their assigned beach, he ordered the following waves to come in on this new beach. Emphasizing that decision for Colonel Eugene Caffey of the 1<sup>st</sup> Engineer Special Brigade, he said, «We're going to start the war from here». He then ordered the advance inland to begin immediately along the causeway leading to Beach Exit 2. For his heroism that morning, Roosevelt was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Theodore Roosevelt died on July 12<sup>th</sup> in the village of Carentan.

### A Great Success

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, quickly passed across the flooded area behind the beach to higher ground. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion moved along the beach to the south and opened up Exit 1 to Pouppeville and Sainte-Marie-du-Mont. Three battalions of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry moved north to clear opposition from Exit 4. Before dark, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> battalions of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Infantry had linked up with the 502<sup>nd</sup> Parachute Infantry west of Saint-Germain-de-Varreville. Late afternoon also found the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> battalions, 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry, astride route N 13 at Les Forges, but they had failed to link up with the 505<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry holding Sainte-Mère-Église two miles to the north. By then, the first elements of the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division had come ashore. The landing on Utah Beach was becoming the big success story of D-Day.

### Lisieux



After our tour we visit **Lisieux**, town of **St. Therese of Lisieux**, patroness of our **Little Flower Pilgrimages**. We visit the **Basilica of St. Therese of the Child Jesus** where we see relics of St. Therese and **the Carmel** where St. Therese spent her short, but holy, life as a nun. There will be a Mass in the Basilica at 5:00PM for those who would like to attend Mass. We have some free time at the Carmel before our return to Le Harve.

### Sat, July 19<sup>th</sup>: Southampton      Arrival 8:00 AM

After breakfast we disembark. Our guide and driver will be waiting for us to take us on our tour of **Stonehenge, Windsor and a Panorama of London**



**Stonehenge** is a prehistoric, mysterious circle of upright stones in southern England. Construction on the great monument began 5,000 years ago; the famous stones that still stand today were put in place about 4,000 years ago. The stones are aligned almost perfectly with the sunrise on the summer solstice, and it is almost unquestioned that Stonehenge was built as a spectacular place of worship.

The current site, awe-inspiring as it is, is only part of the original Stonehenge. The original construction has suffered a great deal from both weather damage and human pillage of its rock over the millennia.

Stonehenge has been the subject of much archaeological and scientific inquiry and research, especially in the last century. Archaeologists believe the construction of the site was carried out in three main stages, which have been labeled Stonehenge I, Stonehenge II and Stonehenge III.

Stonehenge stands in a grassy field in the Wiltshire countryside, and must have been a highly atmospheric site over the millennia since its construction. Unfortunately, in modern times the site has lost a great deal of this atmosphere, thanks to the intersection of two major highways nearby and the inevitable tourist infrastructure. That said, Stonehenge is such a magnificent monument that it would impress no matter where it is. The astonishing scale and beauty of the stones, the great care and labor in construction, and the mystery that surrounds its original purpose are just some of the reasons Stonehenge is one of the most popular sights in England. And under stormy skies, a fresh snowfall, a rainbow, a full moon, or the rising sun on the summer solstice, it is a mystical site indeed.

**Windsor** - Set in the heart of the Thames Valley, less than 30 miles from Central London, the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead is dominated by beautiful countryside, the River Thames, historical towns and villages as well as unrivalled royal heritage and events.

This wealth of attractions combined with superb shopping and a wide range of high-quality restaurants makes the Royal Borough the perfect location for a weekend or short break, or group day trip.

The Royal Borough has a strong equestrian link and is home to the world-famous Ascot Racecourse and Royal Windsor Racecourse, both of which hold meetings throughout the year. One of the main attractions of the equestrian calendar is the Royal Windsor Horse show, held each May on the grounds of Windsor Castle.

You will have time for lunch and shopping before your visit of Windsor Castle.



**London Panorama** - On arrival in London we have a panoramic drive around Parliament Square to Westminster Abbey, where many of England's kings, queens, statesmen, poets and writers are buried. Next we see Big Ben and the neo-Gothic Houses of Parliament, Whitehall, Downing Street and Trafalgar Square, watched over by Nelson's Column. We continue passed Buckingham Palace. We pass the Tower of London, the ancient fortress steeped in centuries of murder and treason, guarded by jet-black ravens. The Tower of London is home to the priceless "Crown Jewels", including the enormous Cullinan diamonds and the extraordinary Koh-i-Noor.

Upon arrival in London, we check into our hotel. Remainder of the day is free. Dinner on your own this evening.

**Sun, July 20<sup>th</sup>: London/USA** Depart to London Heathrow airport for our return flight to the USA.

## Reservation Form

<b>Tour No. OPE0708</b>		
Name (as it appears on your passport):		
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Telephone:	Email address:	
Will your room be a: <input type="checkbox"/> single (limited) <input type="checkbox"/> double <input type="checkbox"/> triple		
Cabin Category <input type="checkbox"/> Inside <input type="checkbox"/> Oceanview <input type="checkbox"/> Balcony		
Name of Roommate:		
Are you a US citizen? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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 April 16, 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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Insurance on this trip is \$ 260.00 per person double or triple.</b>  <b>\$ 290.00 per person single</b></p>		
Signature:	Date:	

Credit card <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> 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>Tour No. OPE0708</b>	<b>13 Day Pilgrimage Cruise</b>	<b>\$ 260.00 Double/Triple</b> <b>\$ 290.00 Single</b>

Insurance Form		<b>Tour No. OPE0708</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 \$ 260.00 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