

Tour 204

Ireland and Medjugorje

11 Days



YOUR TRIP INCLUDES:

- ◆ 10 nights at centrally located three and four-star hotels as follows: (*or similar*)
 - 1 night: Galway Bay Hotel, Galway, Ireland
 - 3 nights: Knock House, Knock, Ireland
 - 2 nights: Trinity Capital Hotel, Dublin, Ireland
 - 4 nights: A modern home/Inn with private baths in Medjugorje, Bosnia - Herzegovina
- ◆ Transfers as per itinerary
- ◆ Breakfast and Dinner daily
- ◆ Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- ◆ Assistance of a professional local Catholic guide(s)
- ◆ Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- ◆ Catholic Priest available for Spiritual Direction
- ◆ Mass daily & Spiritual activities (English at 10:00am, and Croatian at 6:00pm)
- ◆ Meeting with visionaries
- ◆ Visit to Community Cenacolo
- ◆ Luggage handling (1 piece per person)

Day-by-Day Itinerary:



Day 1 - Shannon - Galway

Cead Mile Failte - Welcome to Ireland! When you arrive at Shannon airport, you will be met by your driver/ guide and escorted to your deluxe motor coach. Your travels will bring you northwesterly where you will stop for a refreshing morning coffee and home-baked scones. Continue to the Dysert O'Dea Castle. Built in 1480 by Diarmuid O'Dea, Lord of Cineal Fearmaic, today the Castle houses an extensive museum, an audiovisual presentation on the history of this unique area, and various exhibitions. Today you will also see the ruins at Corcomroe Abbey. This 12th century Cistercian Abbey was given the name 'Sancta Maria de Petra Fertili' - 'Saint Mary of the fertile rock' - a very well chosen name for this remarkable Abbey that stands near the head of a limestone valley that brings forth lush green grass. Continue to Galway City where you will overnight with dinner.

Day 2 - Galway - Knock

This morning you can travel west to Connemara. The region is now largely uninhabited, although in the past the more fertile lowlands were cultivated and the uplands were used as pasture for cattle and sheep. Visit Kylemore Abbey, which is the Only * home of the Benedictine nuns in Ireland. Set in the heart of Connemara, this unique Abbey offers the warmth and hospitality of its peaceful environs. The Abbey was originally intended to be a castle by Mitchell Henry as a gift for his wife, in 1868. The Gothic Church, set in the grounds of the Abbey, is the jewel in the crown of Kylemore. Here you will celebrate Mass in the Gothic Cathedral. Alternatively drive directly to Knock. The story of the apparition at Knock dates back to Aug 21st, 1879.

Day 3 - Knock

Today you will spend the day in prayer and reflection at the Holy Shrine. You will also have an opportunity to see Knock Museum. Knock Folk Museum portrays aspects of rural life in Ireland at the end of the 19th Century and early 20th Century. With over 2,000 exhibits on display. Dinner and overnight in Knock.

Day 4 - Knock

This morning you will travel to Ballintubber for a full day retreat. Ballintubber Abbey is one of the few medieval churches where mass has been celebrated continually for almost 800 years. Legend has it that St. Patrick banished nine goblins there; today it is a haven of peace, prayer and retreat with ancient buildings now restored. The retreat will be held nearby in the Ballintubber Abbey Retreat Experience (Jun to Sep). Return to Knock for overnight.

Day 5 - Knock - Dublin

After breakfast and Mass in the Old Church or the Church of the Apparitions, you will head to Ireland's Capital city of Dublin where you will enjoy free time before dinner and overnight.

Day 6 - Dublin

This morning your Dublin city guide will meet you at your hotel for a full day tour of the sights of Dublin. Mass will be at Sean McDermott Street Church, which contains the tomb of Matt Talbot. On your city tour you will experience all the wonderful sights and landmarks of this ancient city. The tour includes some of Dublin's most renowned sites, such as St. Patrick's Cathedral, Christchurch Cathedral and the Book of Kells. Traditionally the place where the cathedral lies today was the place where St. Patrick baptized the pagans to Christianity in the 5th century and there has been a church there since. Christ church Cathedral is one of the finest cathedrals in Ireland. Trinity College is a residential college in the heart of the city. Here you will visit the Colonnades, which houses the college's greatest treasures, of which the most famous is the Book Of Kells. The book is a magnificently illustrated, in Celtic design, version of the Gospels designed by unknown hands in the monastery of Kells in Meath about 800. It was presented to Trinity College in the mid-17th Century in order to save it from Cromwell's army. You will also see the Georgian Squares, O'Connell Street, the Greens and the Phoenix Park that is the largest urban parkland area in Europe. The president of Ireland resides here. Dinner and overnight in Dublin.

Day 7 - Dublin - Medjugorje

After breakfast transfer to Paris Airport for your flights to Medjugorje. Upon arrival, you'll also be greeted by a tour guide and/or driver who will then take you on the 2 1/2 hour drive by private coach to the village of Medjugorje. Guide will be with you throughout your stay. Once there, you'll meet your fellow pilgrims and your spiritual leader and be introduced to your host family in whose modern and comfortable house you will be staying for the next four nights.

Day 8 to 10 - Medjugorje

Experience the beauty and peace of this simple village. During your stay in Medjugorje you will have the opportunity to share faith with pilgrims from all over the world.



Here are some of the activities you'll be sharing with our fellow pilgrims: Each morning at 10am we assemble at St. James Church for the English-language Mass (Feast days and Sundays English Mass is at Noon). Follow the path up Apparition Hill where the visionaries first encountered Our Lady. Touch and pray before the cross that commemorates the spot where Mary first appeared to the visionaries.

Each evening at 5pm or 6pm daylight savings time, we will join the villagers and pilgrims to pray the rosary. The apparition takes place at 5:40pm or 6:40 daylight savings time, and then stay on for Croatian Mass. Don't miss on Tuesdays and Saturdays Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and on Fridays Veneration of the Cross in the Church. Each evening during Croatian Mass, there is the Blessing of the Sick and blessing of the items you have with you.

Our guide will arrange meetings with the visionaries at their own homes provided that they are in Medjugorje during your trip, and pending their availability. We will have the opportunity to climb Krizevac Mountain, where in 1933 the villagers built a 30' high cross on the anniversary of Jesus' crucifixion. Visit and pray at "Blue Cross", which is a place of great healings and graces- a very special place at the base of Apparition Hill.

We will visit the community of Cenacolo.

- *The balance of your trip in Medjugorje is meant to provide you with time for a personal retreat. As such, your time in Medjugorje is not designed to be a "tour", but rather to provide you with time to pray, reflect, and explore on your own as you feel called. On arrival, you will have an orientation tour after which a representative of 206 Tours will be available should you have any questions or requests, however, you will not have a guide with you throughout your stay. Daily Mass in English, as well as English confessions are available at St. James Church. During your stay in Medjugorje you will have full discretion over how your time is spent, in order to have the fullest spiritual experience possible.*

Day 11 - Medjugorje - Home

After an early breakfast and heartfelt farewells, we leave by motor coach for Dubrovnik Airport (Split or Sarajevo) for return flights home.

Guidepost Tours

A Division of Platinum Travel Corporation
131 Belinda Street, (PO BOX 62) Gerringong, NSW 2534

Australia Toll free

Phone: 1300 733 323

Email: bob@guidepost-travel.com

Website: www.guideposttours.com.au

Travel Lic # 2TA5895 IATA AFTA TCF