# Southern Cross Pilgrimage

# MEDJUGORJE • ROME
## ASSISI • LORETO

## 12 to 21 October 2026
## Led by Bishop Noel Rucastle

Pray in **Medjugorje** and visit **Rome**, with papal audience, and see **Assisi**, the town of St Francis, and **Loreto** with Mary's House. Plus **Dubrovnik**

**THREE COUNTRIES IN ONE TOUR!**

**www.fowlertours/medju2026**

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St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican

Pope Leo XIV at a General Audience

The Colosseum

Porziuncola in the St Mary of the Angels basilica

Basilica of St Francis in Assisi

## Monday, October 12

We depart from OR Tambo International in Johannesburg to catch our flight and begin our pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Rome, Assisi and Loreto with **Bishop Noel Rucastle of Oudtshoorn**.

## Tuesday, October 13

We arrive in **Rome**, and visit the **Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls** with the authenticated tomb of St Paul the Apostle, and the images of every pope in history, represented in medallion mosaics. We then explore the **Rome of the Renaissance**, including the **Trevi Fountain**, **Navona Square** as well as the **Pantheon**. Overnight: Rome

## Wednesday, October 14

Today we see the pope at the **general audience** in **St Peter's Square**. It is an unforgettable experience to see Pope Leo XIV close-up (subject to the pope being in Rome at the time). We visit **St Peter's Basilica**, which was built on the site where St Peter was martyred.

At **St Mary Major Basilica** we see the tomb of Pope Francis, the statue of Mary Salus Populi Romani, and the relic of the Holy Crib. **St John Lateran Basilica** is the official cathedral of Rome and of the pope. It includes many great artworks as well as a remnant said to be of the table of the Last Supper, as well as the tomb of Pope Leo XIII, who inspired our new Holy Father's choice of papal name.

We have the opportunity to see and ascend the **Holy Stairs**, said to be the staircase Jesus climbed for his trial by Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem. We also have opportunity to see the **Colosseum** and the **Roman Forum**. Overnight: Rome

## Thursday, October 15

After breakfast, we leave Rome and drive through Italy's beautiful countryside to **Assisi**, the town of St Francis and his companion St Clare. The 13th-century **Basilica of St Francis** contains the sacred tomb of Francis and Giotto's beautiful frescoes of his life. The Basilica of St Clare, also from the 13th century, houses the relics of St Clare, original robes that belonged to her, as well as the miraculous crucifix that spoke to Francis.

At **San Damiano Convent** St Francis first received his miraculous calling in 1205 and St Clare died there in 1253, it is an important stop on the pilgrimage to the Franciscan holy city. It was here that St Clare repelled the invaders by holding up the monstrance.

We then visit the **Basilica di Santa Maria degli Angeli** (St Mary of the Angels), just outside Assisi. This is the place where St Francis' great mission really began and where he died. Inside the grand Baroque basilica is the **Porziuncola**, the tiny church in the meadows which St Francis was called to renovate Overnight: Assisi

## Friday, October 16

After breakfast, we leave Assisi and drive across Italy to the town of **Loreto** where we see the **Holy House of Nazareth** and the beautiful **Madonna of Loreto** which more than 50 popes have visited. Legend says that the house was transported to Italy by angels; history says it was brought over by a family called DiAngeli.

We then proceed to Ancona where we take the overnight **ferry across the Adriatic** to Split, Croatia. Overnight: Cabin on the ferry

The Sanctuary of the Holy House of Loreto

## Saturday, October 17

We arrive in Split in the morning, and proceed to **Medjugorje** in Bosnia-Herzegovina. We begin our time at this Marian shrine by fixing our eyes on the Lord Jesus as we follow the **Stations of the Cross** in the beautiful gardens. We also see the huge **statue of Jesus** at the moment of the resurrection, from which drops of liquid inexplicably flow. In the evening we may participate individually in the public prayers of the Rosary, Blessings of Objects, and Prayer for health of soul and body (as we can the next two evenings).
Overnight: Medjugorje

St James church in MedjugorjeSplit in Croatia

## Sunday, October 18

Today we have a guided tour of **Medjugorje**. If possible, there will be an encounter with one of the visionaries. There will be time for prayer, silent adoration and, if requested, confession. We also walk up **Mount Krisevac** (optional). The massive cross on the peak was erected long before the apparitions, in 1934 to mark the 1,900th anniversary of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Overnight: Medjugorje

Cross on Mount Krisevac

## Monday, October 19

In the morning we climb the **Hill of the Apparitions** where bronze plaques depict the Mysteries of the Rosary help us meditate on the life of Our Lord. On top is the site of the first apparitions of the Virgin, a place of contemplation.

We then take the short drive to the picturesque city of **Mostar**, with its famous bridge and streets that merge Christian and Muslim cultures. Just outside the Old City, we visit the church of St Peter and Paul, which has a close relationship with Our Lady of Medjugorje.

Stari Most bridge in Mostar

## Tuesday, October 20

After breakfast, we drive to **Dubrovnik**, on Croatia's Adriatic coast. Subject to our flight schedule, we will have a guided tour city of this city of history and beauty before we begin our journey home.

## Wednesday, October 21

We arrive in Johannesburg in the morning, spiritually raised by our holy journey which brought us in contact with Our Lord, Our Lady and many great saints in Medjugorje, Rome and Assisi.

Cathedral of the Assumption in Dubrovnik

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# ABOUT MEDJUGORJE

Since 1981, in the small village of Medjugorje, the Blessed Virgin Mary has been appearing and giving messages to the world. She tells us: "I have come to tell the world that God exists. He is the fullness of life, and to enjoy this fullness and peace, you must return to God."

On 24 June 1981, on the Podbrdo hill, six children saw a beautiful young woman carrying a little child in her arms. They were frightened at what they saw and did not come closer, even though the woman beckoned them. They knew that this woman was Our Lady.

The following day, the children returned to the same place in hope of seeing her again. With the flash of a light, the six children looked up and saw Our Lady, this time without the child. When they reached Her, they fell to their knees and began to pray with Our Lady. Before Our Lady left the children, she said: "God be with you my angels!"

There have been only five days where no apparitions were recorded. Medjugorje has been a place of peace, hope and inspiration for many. The Word of God is alive in Medjugorje, which is known to also be a place of conversion. This is why Pope Francis has authorised official pilgrimages to the sanctuary

There is always much going on in this very prayerful, peaceful place.

The Virgin appears daily during the 18:40 rosary, and the visionaries transmit her message to the rest of the world.

Statue of Our Lady in Medjugorje

Statue of Jesus coming off his cross in Medjugorje

# How to book on this beautiful pilgrimage

**Est. Price:** R 61,531 (sharing, ex-Jhb; subject to currency, airport tax fluctuations, calculated on 25 passengers; R20,98 to the Euro)

Includes: All flights ex-Johannesburg (incl. airport taxes), accommodation in 3 and 4-star hotels (sharing) with breakfast and dinner, ferry from Ancona to Split (accommodation in cabin), travel insurance (up to age 69), transfers, travelling on air-conditioned luxury buses, English-speaking guides, entrance fees as per itinerary.

Excludes: Visa (Schengen for Italy, applies to all three countries), tips & hotel taxes (mandatory), lunches, personal expenses, travel to and from O.R. Tambo Airport/Jhb.

A **deposit of R5,900** secures your place on this unforgettable pilgrimage. Send proof of payment, completed booking form and a clear copy of your passport to info@fowlertours.co.za — and your place will be secured!

Name of Account: Fowler Tours SA
Bank: First National Bank
Acc no: 631 271 89 933 (current account)
Beneficiary Reference: 'MEDJU26' plus your name

**Please no cash deposits. Credit card payments available on request at 3% surcharge.**

**For more information, please contact Gail at 076 352-3809 or info@fowlertours.co.za**

**www.fowlertours.co.za**

*The Journeys of a Lifetime*

Fowler Tours SA

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# RESERVATION FORM

*(one form per person, photocopies of form are permitted):*

Enclosed is my deposit of 5,900 per person to secure my booking on the pilgrimage specified below. Payment is to be made to:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Account Name:** | Fowler Tours SA |
| **Bank:** | First National Bank Bank |
| **Account no:** | 631 27 189 933 (current account) |
| **Name of trip:** | Southern Cross Pilgrimage to Medjugorje, Rome, Assisi & Loreto |
| | Led by Bishop Noel Rucastle |
| **Duration:** | 12 to 21 October 2026 |
| **Cost:** | Estimated: R 61,531 (subject to fluctuations, calculated on 25 passengers) |

How did you hear about this pilgrimage? ❑ Fowler Tours SA ❑ Southern Cross ❑ Internet ❑ Friend ❑ Other

1.) **RESERVATION FORM**

Title: ___ Name (as it appears on your Passport)_____

Address:_____

_____ Code:___ _____

Date of Birth:_____ ID Number:_____

Home Phone (____) _____ Cell: (___) _____

Email: _____

Passport Number:_____ Expiry Date:_____

Medical Conditions: _____

Preferred first and surname for Name Badge:_____

Sharing With: _____

*Please go to next page*

**Emergency Contact Person**

Name:_____

Cell number: _____ Email: _____

Relationship: _____

2.) **PASSPORT** (required to travel)

- ❑ Photocopy of passport inside page showing name and photo is enclosed / clear scan attached
- ❑ I am applying for a passport and understand that I must supply a copy to Fowler Tours at least three months before the departure date..

**N.B.: Passports must be valid SIX months following the return date of the trip.**

3.) **PAYMENT TERMS & SCHEDULE:**

Deposit R5,900 to book. The deposit is non-refundable. A final invoice, reflecting the final price, will be issued 60 days prior to departure. Final Payment must be made within five days of invoicing. BANK DETAILS AS ABOVE. N.B.: Bank charges for cash deposits will be charged to you.

**Credit Card option available at a surcharge of 3%.**

4.) **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

I have received, read and agree to the TERMS & CONDITIONS and the Liability clause below, pricing terms, and payment terms outlined on this side of the form. I understand that the cancellation terms and penalties cannot be waived for any reason. If I decline to purchase travel insurance, I understand that there is no monetary recourse for any flight cancellations or delays by the airlines and I agree to the cancellation terms and penalties.

Signature (required to confirm reservation): _____

**Liability:** Fowler Tours (Pty) Ltd and The Southern Cross do not own or operate any entity which is to or does provide goods or services for your trip, including, for example, lodging facilities, transportation companies, local ground operators, including, without limitation, various entities which may utilize the Fowler Tours and/or The Southern Cross name, guides, sightseeing companies, entertainment, food or drink service providers, equipment suppliers, etc. As a result, Fowler Tours and The Southern Cross are not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity. In addition, Fowler Tours and The Southern Cross are not responsible for any negligent or willful act or failure to act of any person or entity they do not own or control, nor for any act or inaction of any other third party not under their control. Without limitations Fowler Tours and The Southern Cross are not liable for any direct, indirect, consequential, or incidental damage, injury, death, loss, accident, delay, inconvenience or irregularity of any kind which may be occasioned by reason of any act or omission beyond their control, including, without limitation any willful or negligent act, failure to act, breach of contract or violation of local law or regulation of any third party such as an airline, train, hotel, bus, taxi, van, local ground handler or guide, whether or not it uses the Fowler Tours and/or The Southern Cross names, financial default or insolvency of any supplier which is to, or does supply any goods or services for this trip. Similarly, Fowler Tours and The Southern Cross are not responsible for any loss, injury, death or inconvenience due to delay or changes in schedule, overbooking of accommodation, default of any third party, attacks by animals, injury or death while on activities sponsored by lodging facilities or by other third parties, sickness, the lack of appropriate medical care, evacuation to same, if necessary, weather, strikes, acts of God or government, acts of terrorism, or the threat thereof, force majeure, war, quarantine, epidemics, or the threat thereof, criminal activity, or any other cause beyond its control. Should the advertised spiritual director be unable to participate in this event, every effort will be made to secure a substitute. Regardless of the participation of the advertised spiritual director the pilgrimage tour will proceed as scheduled on the dates listed. By signing this form to participate in this pilgrimage tour, you agree that the terms of the cancellation penalty will be binding upon you regardless of whether the advertised spiritual director is able to participate. Fowler Tours and The Southern Cross will not be responsible for any loss incurred by traveller, including lost days of the scheduled tour, due to a cancelled flight or other means and modes of transportation.

# TERMS & CONDITIONS

**THE PILGRIMAGE PRICE INCLUDES:**
- Roundtrip airfare from Johannesburg return; final amount subject to change
- Airport & border taxes
- Ferry from Ancona to Split (accommodation in cabin/sharing)
- Full accommodation as stated in the itinerary
- Breakfast and dinner
- Travel insurance (surcharge applies for travelers aged 69+)
- Roundtrip airport transfers in destinations and luxury coach for all touring
- Guided by certified local tour guides/director
- Services of local tour operator
- Masses in holy sites
- All entrance fees as per itinerary

**THE PILGRIMAGE PRICE EXCLUDES:**
Mandatory tips for guide and drivers, hotel taxes, visas (Schengen), private expenses

**PRICING TERMS:** As per booking form. *Please note that prices herein are estimates, and are subject to fluctuations in airline fees, airport taxes and exchange rates.*

**PAYMENT TERMS:** In order to meet deposit schedules with suppliers for this tour, Fowler Tours charges a non-refundable deposit. Full invoice is issued 60-90 days before departure; payment of which is due within FIVE DAYS.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** All cancellations must be received in writing. No refunds of deposits, except at the discretion of Fowler Tours.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE:** Fowler Tours will arrange for travel insurance. Surcharges apply travellers over the age of 75.

**PASSPORT:** A valid passport is required of all passengers. Please apply for your passport immediately as passports are taking a long time to process. Make sure to have it in your possession at all times while on tour. It must be valid for 6 months following the return date of the trip or boarding may be denied or entry into the destination may be forbidden. Please provide Fowler Tours with a copy or clear scan of the inside page of your passport (showing your name and photo) at the time of reservation.

**VISAS:** While Fowler Tours will advise you on visa requirements, obtaining visas is the sole responsibility of the traveller (unless specifically offered otherwise by Fowler Tours). Fowler Tours is not liable for visa applications that are rejected or otherwise not obtained before departure, and in such cases cannot offer refunds.

**GROUP AIR:** Due to the airlines' reduced capacity and restrictive group reservation terms, group air reservations are often difficult to coordinate. The number of connections, length of layovers, and all conditions surrounding air travel cannot be guaranteed and may change before departure. **Seat Requests:** Please note that group seats are assigned "at the discretion of the airline", although every effort will be made to fulfill requests. SPECIFIC SEAT ASSIGNMENTS CANNOT AND WILL NOT BE GUARANTEED. Seat numbers will not be advised until check-in at the airport.

**DOMESTIC TRAVEL TO JOHANNESBURG:** You are responsible for your own arrangements to and from Johannesburg OR Tambo Airport.

**ITINERARY**: The Itinerary is tentative and represents what we are planning for you, however it is subject to confirmations from many organisations. Because of changes in local schedules, we may need to alter specified events, dates and/or venues to better fit the overall plan.

**TIPS:** Gratuities for your guides, driver and hotel staff, and hotel taxes (if applicable) are excluded. These are mandatory. You will be advised of the total cost of these before departure, and all monies will be collected by the tour leader who will then distribute them to the various recipients.

**ROOMS:** Tour prices are per person sharing. Single rooms at an extra rate are limited and are available first come-first served until the supply is exhausted.

**LUGGAGE:** Baggage is at owner's risk throughout the tour.

**HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:** Travellers must be medically and physically fit for this tour. This tour requires significant walking, as motor coaches are not permitted to pick up and drop off in front of major attractions. The tour is not wheelchair accessible. Any special limiting medical conditions or equipment must be advised in writing, for evaluation of feasibility, at the time of making your reservation.

**PANDEMICS:** In case of pandemics, travel arrangements may be interrupted or cancelled by the associated travel supplier, a government entity, or another third party outside of Fowler Tour's control for reasons that are unforeseeable at this time. By booking on this tour, travellers expressly acknowledge that travel involves the risk of a variety of hazards to health and/or safety, including but not limited to, injury, illness, disease, epidemics, and/or pandemics, and expressly understand and agree that they assume all such risks associated with travel whether or not specified herein. Fowler Tours has no control over the associated supplier's policies which, in addition to applicable law, will solely govern any cancellation, rebooking and refund related to these travel arrangements. By booking on this tour, travellers agree to hold the agency harmless and release it from any and all liability for any damages including, without limitation, monetary losses, damage to person or property, illness/disease, delays, negligence, or inconvenience, that may be incurred as a result of the circumstances described herein.

**PHOTOGRAPHY:** Fowler Tours and/or The Southern Cross may take photographs or film of its trips and trip participants, and participant grants Fowler Tours and express permission to do so and for Fowler Tours and The Southern Cross use such for promotional, commercial or editorial use.

**UNUSED SERVICES:** There is no right to a refund for any unused services.

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