



ENCOUNTER THE SAINTS AND MARTYRS IN

South Korea

7 – 14 MARCH 2018

ASIAN
CHURCH
SERIES



DAILY FAITH FORMATION WITH REV. DCN DR SHERMAN KUEK OFS
ACCOMPANYING BISHOP: BISHOP CORNELIUS SIM

HOW SHOULD YOU DECIDE ON A PILGRIMAGE TRIP?

So you saw some upcoming pilgrimage trips advertised in the local Catholic newspapers or in your parish bulletin. And it looks rather compelling because you've always wanted to go to that particular destination for a pilgrimage, and more so, it seems cheap!

So how can you know if this is a pilgrimage worth going for? Just because a trip is cheap, it doesn't mean that it will be a trip worth going for, and more so, it doesn't mean that the trip will be all it promises to be.

So what criteria should you use to decide if you should participate in an advertised trip or give it a miss? Here are certain points that help the discerning pilgrim to distinguish a potentially fruitful trip from one that may not be so:

1. PILGRIMS MUST RECEIVE ADEQUATE AND ACCURATE TEACHING

On many pilgrimages, too little proper information is given to pilgrims to aid their understanding. Many tour guides, despite the training they claim to have received, thrive on anecdotes. There are also those who deliver facts that are either untrue or inaccurate to unsuspecting pilgrims, or worse still, teachings that contradict the Catholic faith.

This is one important reason why the Splendour Project decided to begin offering formation-based pilgrimages, so that an expert formator could accompany our trips to provide pilgrims with more than adequate teaching and guide their understanding of the places that they visit from the historical, Scriptural, and theological perspectives. Even the tour guides we provide on our trips are very carefully selected.

2. PILGRIMS MUST BE GIVEN WHAT THEY PAY FOR

Because the Malaysian currency has devalued by at least 15 percent this past year and travel has become even more expensive, many travel organisers are forced to cut corners to keep their trips cheap. For example, some components of a trip may be removed, or quality of transportation, accommodation, and food is being compromised, or less time is spent in the more important places because being there is more expensive.

The Splendour Project ensures that this doesn't happen on our trips. On the face of it, it looks like our quoted prices are not cheap. However, we actually ensure that you get what you pay for because we refuse to compromise on the quality of your experience. We believe that since most of our pilgrims are visiting a particular place only once in their lifetime, it is not worth compromising on quality just to save a couple of thousand Ringgit. We want to ensure that pilgrims get the best that can possibly be offered, e.g. enough time at shrines without rushing just because days have been cut short, good morale because food is of good quality and accommodation is comfortable, and safety and security are ensured. Basically, we do our best to make sure you get what has been promised.

3. PILGRIMS MUST RECEIVE THE SACRAMENTS AND SPIRITUAL GUIDANCE

Part of cost-cutting measures is to remove the accompanying priests from the cost equation. This means that many pilgrimage groups travel without an accompanying priest to keep their trips cheap. But having a priest around to provide the sacraments on a daily basis is very integral to a pilgrimage.

The Splendour Project makes it a point to personally invite priests and bishops who are well-respected and reputed for being serious about the Sacraments. They are also priests who are patient enough to offer spiritual guidance on a personal basis to pilgrims who need to receive some spiritual direction for their lives. Such priests would ensure that pilgrims are able to make good confessions at the Sacrament of Reconciliation and have Masses well-celebrated for them on a daily basis throughout our trips.

4. PILGRIMS' SAFETY MUST BE A PRIORITY

Prospective pilgrims are constantly worried about whether their safety is secured if they were to embark on a particular trip. They are usually afraid especially of unsafe socio-political situations in the places they will be visiting. It is important that the organisers of the trip have access to

firsthand knowledge of what is happening in these destinations. Do keep in mind that the mass media is not trustworthy on such issues because they tend to sensationalise matters -- bad news sells!

The safety and security of our pilgrims are very important to the Splendour Project. We have firsthand regular updates from our contacts who live in the very places we are planning to visit, so we are well-aware of the security conditions there. We are therefore able to ensure that your trips are not unnecessarily cancelled or postponed, and also that your safety is not unnecessarily compromised. We also ensure that our pilgrims' insurance policies come with comprehensive coverage.

5. PILGRIMS MUST BE AIDED IN THEIR LEARNING

It would be a pity if you paid all that money for a trip and came back without having learned, or having forgotten, everything that you are supposed to know upon having visited those places in your travel itinerary. And yet, most of the time, this happens because travel organisers are experts in making logistic arrangements, not so much in crafting your learning process to ensure optimal learning.

To ensure that our pilgrims understand and remember, the Splendour Project conducts faith formation sessions each morning during our trips. Detailed explanations are also given by our Formation Director at the sites of our visits. At the beginning of each trip, pilgrims each receive a detailed handbook containing all the faith formation content and the necessary information about the places the pilgrims are visiting. This would ensure that they are able to refer to the handbook during, and even after, the pilgrimages instead of losing those precious memories and the knowledge that come together with the visits.

In addition to that, after each trip, the Splendour Project provides all our pilgrims with a professionally produced full-length video footage of their trip. The purpose of this footage is, again, to assist pilgrims in reinforcing their memory of their pilgrimage trip. It is not possible for other tour organisers to provide footages of such professional quality because it

would cost them too much to do so, but the Splendour Project has the added advantage of our own in-house media crew to provide this for our pilgrims.

6. PILGRIMS MUST BE GIVEN A HOLISTIC UNDERSTANDING

Did you know that the places that the Church considers holy are all connected to one another in some way? But it does take a considerable amount of intellectual expertise and skill to help pilgrims to see this connection. Otherwise, one can only organise a particular pilgrimage trip in isolation from others and would be unable to help pilgrims to understand how a particular place is intricately linked to other places that they may have visited or will be visiting in time to come.

Hence, choosing among pilgrimage trips is never just a matter of choosing the cheapest trip you can find. There are many factors that need to be considered before making a final decision. Only when a tour organiser can guarantee the above to a reasonable extent that you can be almost certain that you have embarked on a good trip.

1

**07 MAR (WED)
KLIA / SEOUL**

Assemble at KLIA at 2145 hours to depart for Seoul

2

**08 MAR (THU)
SEOUL**

Flight departs from KUL at 0100 hours, arrives in ICN (Incheon Airport) at 0820 hours.



Myeongdong Cathedral, the cathedral of the Seoul Archdiocese, the birthplace of Roman Catholicism in Korea which houses the remains of a number of saints and martyrs. (Mass to be celebrated here)

Lunch at local restaurant



After lunch visit **Gyeongbokgung Palace**, the grandest of five palaces in South Korea

Dinner and overnight in Seoul

3

**09 MAR (FRI)
SEOUL**

Breakfast and formation in the hotel.

Visit Yakhyeon Jungnim-dong Cathedral where

the **Seosomun Martyrs' Shrine** is. Catholic believers in Korea, consider Seosomun to be one of the significant holy sites because many Catholic priests were martyred at this very site. Among 103 Korean martyrs, 44 were martyred here.



Bukchon Hanok Village, village of traditional Korean wooden homes

Lunch in local restaurant

Saenamteo Martyrs' Shrine Catholics in Korea affirmed their faith by shedding their blood at this site. Eleven of those martyred here had been canonized, adding glory and honor to this holy ground.

Visit Namdaemun market which, first opened in 1964 is the largest traditional market in Korea with over 10,000 retailers, vendors, and wholesalers.

Dinner and overnight in Seoul

4

10 MAR (SAT) SEOUL / GYEONGGI-DO

Formation and breakfast at hotel



Check out hotel

Mirinae Holy Site, resting place of the first priest of Korea, St Fr Andrew Kim

Lunch at local restaurant



Chon-Jin Am, where Koreans started practicing Catholicism without guidance (Mass to be celebrated here)

Transfer to Gwangwon-do

Dinner and overnight in Gangwon-do

5

11 MAR (SUN)

(GANGWON-DO / CHUNGCHEONGBUK-DO / GYEONGSANGBUK-DO)

Breakfast and formation in the hotel.

Check out of hotel



Punsuwon Holy Site, gathering site of Catholics during the 19th-century persecution (Mass to be celebrated here)

Lunch in local restaurant

Transfer to Chungcheongbuk-do



Baeron Holy Ground, where South Korea's first theological school was founded but eventually shut down. Visit the Church here modeled after Noah's Ark. Also learn about lay believer Hwa-Yoong and his description of the persecution in the Silk Letters.

Transfer to Gyeongsangbuk-do

Dinner and overnight in Gyeongsangbuk-do

6

12 MAR (MON)
(GYEONGSANGBUK-DO / KYUNGJU)

Formation and breakfast at hotel

Check out of hotel

Proceed to **Gyesan Cathedral** of Daegu (Our Lady of Lourdes Cathedral), an important church promoting Catholicism in the Yeongnam area (Mass to be Celebrated here)



Sightseeing at **Namsan-dong Catholic Town** (Daegu), and visiting **Seongmodang** (Holy Mother's Shrine) modelled after the Grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes (Rosary here)

Lunch at local restaurant

Transfer to Kyungju

Visit Yangdong Cultural Village a UNESCO World Heritage Site



Visit Bulguksa Temple a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Dinner and overnight in Kyungju

7

13 MAR (TUE)
(KYUNGJU / ULSAN / BUSAN)

Formation and breakfast at hotel

Check out of hotel

Transfer to Ulsan



Visit **Eonyang Church** - first Catholic Church built in this area that served its importance that supported the spread of catholicism for the people of Ulsan (Mass to be celebrated here)

Lunch at local restaurant

Transfer to Busan

Visit **Busan Catholic Street** (Oryundae/Catholic University of Korea/Martyrs Museum). Visit the Martyrs Museum to see some artifacts used in the times of persecution. Proceed to the graves of 26 Korean martyrs laid to rest here.

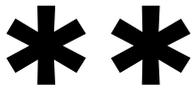
Dinner and overnight in Busan

8

14 MAR (WED)
(BUSAN / KL)

Breakfast at hotel, then check out to transfer to Busan Airport

Flight departure from Busan at 1035 hours, arrive in Kuala Lumpur at 1555 hours.



PRICE: MYR 7,850

per person (twin accomodation)

(For single accomodation, please contact us to enquire.)

Price is inclusive of return air tickets ex-Kuala Lumpur International Airport (inclusive of fuel charges & airport taxes), accommodation, all meals, coach transportation, travel insurance, tipping. Subject to change resulting from fuel charges and airport tax increases and foreign exchange fluctuations.

Kindly take note that price stipulations are based on the present USD currency exchange rate. In the event that currency exchange rate fluctuates, Item 8 of the Terms & Conditions stipulated in the Registration Form applies.

Our trips are usually sold out way ahead of time and registration will be closed when all seats have been filled up. First come, first served.

As seats are limited, your seats are reserved only upon payment of deposits to accompany the submission of your registration forms. Non-
Kindly contact us for more information or to request for registration forms:

EMAIL

pilgrimages@splendpourproject.com

CALL

(+6) 016.4432.783 (Matthew)

SOME SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE SPLENDOUR PROJECT'S FORMATION- BASED PILGRIMAGES:



Faith formation sessions daily by Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek to form your minds and hearts



A specially invited priest who is well-reputed to dispense the sacraments daily on each trip



A complimentary full-length video footage of every trip professionally produced for pilgrims



A certificate for every pilgrim stipulation the amount of faith formation they have received



Thorough research is done in the organising of all these trips



The only formation-based pilgrimages of such kind in this region!

This trip is organised by



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WWW.SPLENDOURPROJECT.COM