PILGRIMAGE
GUIDE

FORMATION–BASED
PILGRIMAGES
WITH THE
SPLENDOUR™
PROJECT

GREECE & TURKEY
21 OCT - 7 NOV 2019

See what's inside.

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"To go on pilgrimage really means to step out of ourselves in order to encounter God where he has revealed himself, where his grace has shone with particular splendour and produced rich fruits of conversion and holiness among those who believe."

- POPE BENEDICT XVI, 2010

A warm welcome.

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? Therefore, we from the Splendour Project have prepared this extensive guide for a discerning pilgrim like yourself to distinguish a potentially fruitful trip from one that may not be so.

You'll soon learn, that 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. So what are you waiting for? Flip the pages to learn more!

But first, an introduction.

The Splendour Project is the name given to a collaborative effort between various individuals and apostolates that have sought to proactively respond to the call of the Holy Catholic Church for a New Evangelisation through the proclamation of Truth, Beauty and Goodness.

Convened by the Rev. Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek OFS, we came together as a group of collaborators in 2012 to string together a series of apostolate activities undertaken by the various collaborative parties that would create a synergy in the transmission of the Holy Gospel as proclaimed by the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church.

Since then, this series of collaborative efforts has been recognised by thousands of Catholic faithful - clergy, religious and laity - and many more have come to identify themselves as being a part of this Splendour Project in varied ways.

The Splendour Team continues to travel around the region of Peninsula Malaysia and Borneo, and beyond, on a regular basis to catechise the faithful of the Church and to preach the Word. This is done through live conferences and events, through production, publication and distribution of formation materials and media, and also through formation-based pilgrimages organised to various sacred sites around the world.

Several years ago, Deacon Sherman Kuek conceptualised a slightly different kind of pilgrimage, realising that many conventional pilgrimages take pilgrims to sacred sites without proper spiritual and theological guidance. As a result, pilgrims are often unable to optimise the benefits they are supposed to received from such trips. Deacon Sherman therefore conceptualised "formation-based pilgrimages", these being trips that continue to take pilgrims to traditional pilgrimage destinations but are accompanied by daily systematic faith formation throughout the trips.

Formation-based pilgrimages ensure that the task of evangelisation is fulfilled through the running of pilgrimages as pilgrims are catechised and the Word of God is preached daily. Such trips powerfully fulfil the evangelisation task of the Church.

Today, Deacon Sherman accompanies groups of pilgrims on such trips to ensure that faith formation is provided for these pilgrims each day on their trips. These trips are strictly formation-based, so that pilgrims have a better understanding of what they see and experience in the course of the trips. They are also guided on spiritual practices to be undertaken in the places they visit. A priest is usually requested to join in the trips to administer sacraments to the pilgrims daily while Deacon Sherman takes care of their faith formation.

SPLENDOUR™ PROJECT
truth + beauty + goodness

An experience of God always shakes us, upsets us and turns things around. We are driven out of our complacency, our ordinary ways of seeing and acting.
- BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

STOCKHOLM

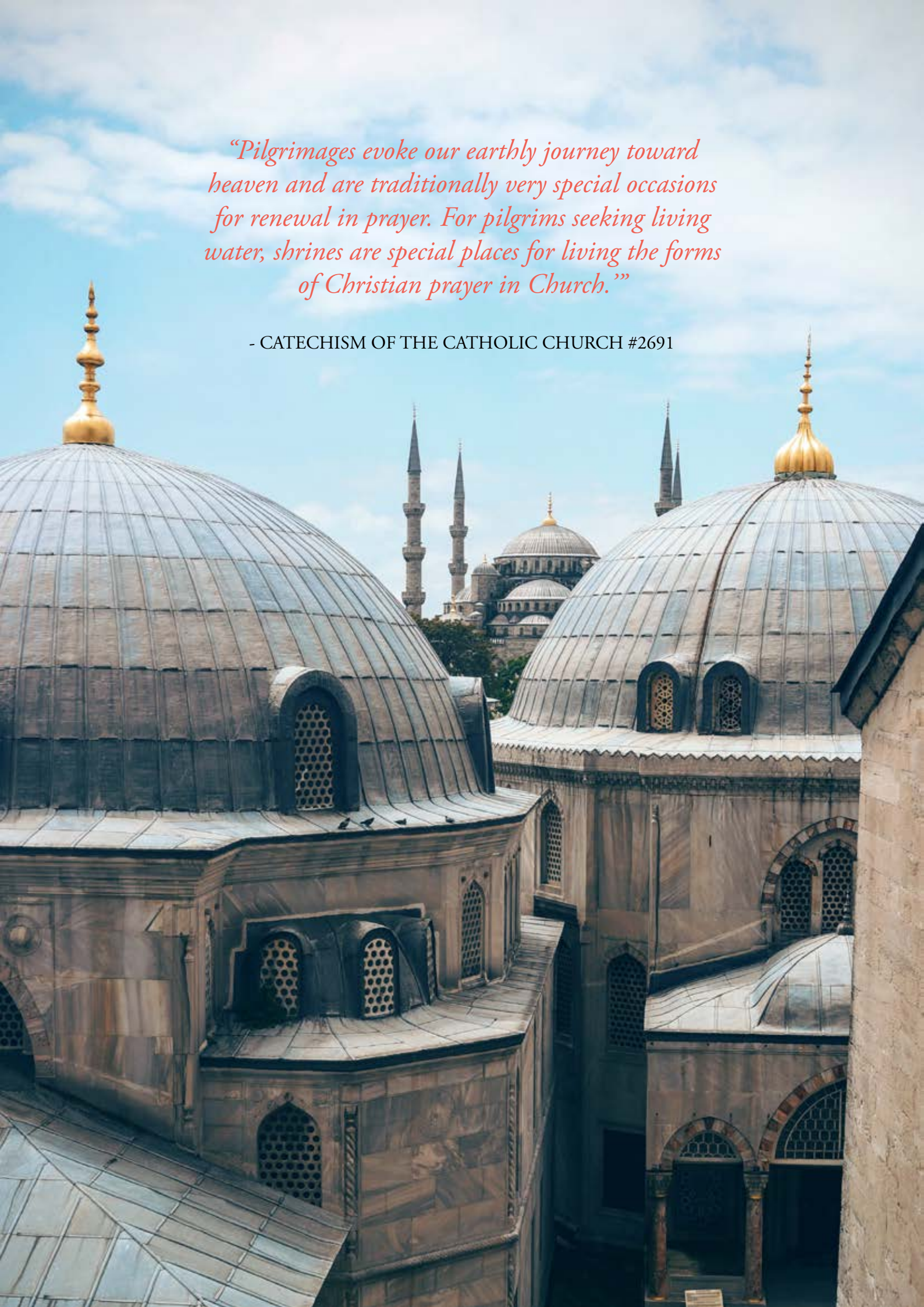
What is a pilgrimage?

A pilgrimage is reflective of our faith and life journey, which is dynamic and ever-changing. In life, we are not always progressing the way we should. There are times when we find ourselves moving forward, and at other times we find ourselves stationary. In fact, there are even times when we may regress slightly. But through all these different "movements" of our journey, we are essentially moving on the path towards God. And this is precisely what happens on a pilgrimage.

Life brings with it various experiences which affect us in different ways. When we go on pilgrimages together, we offer everything of our human experience to God, including our fears, our hopes, our desires, our dreams, our doubts, our ailments and our gratitude. We walk together to witness the faith of God's People at sacred shrines, and we pray at what we see while uniting ourselves with the faith of the Church.

Pilgrimages are by nature unsettling, just like life itself is. Just when we think everything is going smoothly, life brings with it a surprise which can be pleasantly welcomed or begrudgingly unwanted. Although the organisers of such trips are often vigilant to ensure that the best arrangements are made for you, there are things that are often beyond their control, such as mishaps in flight connections, flight delays, unpleasant encounters with people, and mistaken directions. If we take all this in our stride and keep our hearts on the purpose of such a journey, we would see that the journey eventually leads towards our intended destination: God.

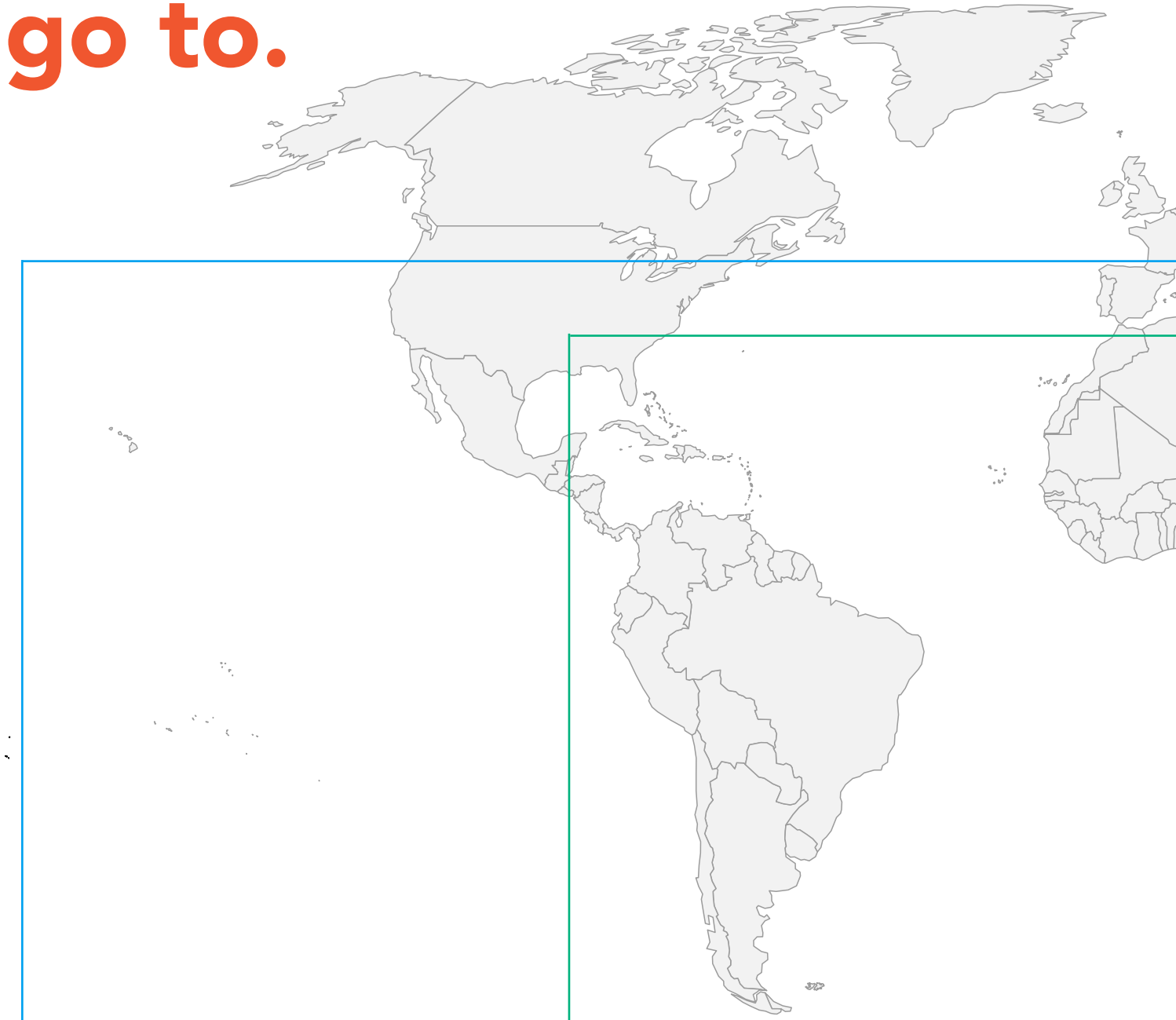
Throughout our trips, pilgrims are constantly reminded to keep their hearts and minds on the spiritual dimension over and above the physical dimension of the journey. Much will be expected of us in terms of transcending the discomforts that the unsettledness of a pilgrimage brings us. But at the same time, if we allow ourselves to be taken through the journey with vulnerability and humility, a "joy of suffering" will come upon us as a deep experience in being united to Christ.



"Pilgrimages evoke our earthly journey toward heaven and are traditionally very special occasions for renewal in prayer. For pilgrims seeking living water, shrines are special places for living the forms of Christian prayer in Church.""

- CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH #2691

The places we go to.

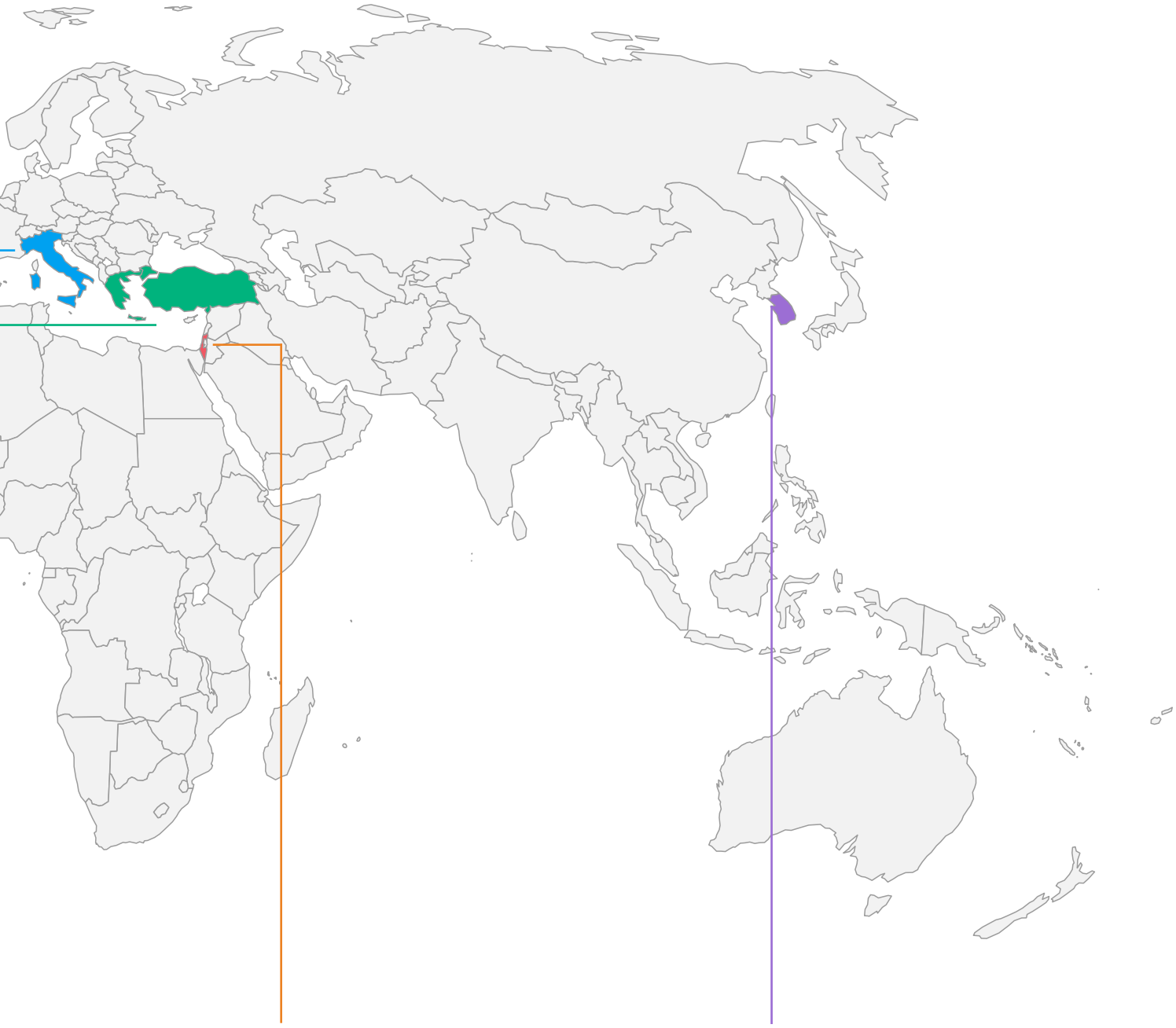


Rome & Europe

Return “home” to Rome where our Papa Francesco reigns as a sovereign monarch in the Vatican. Visit the historic places in Rome where many important events took place in the history of the Church. Witness how the holy lives of Saints inspired entire towns and cities towards holiness and how Christianity has suffered and thrived in the midst of persecution and oppression for centuries.

Greece & Turkey

Visit the cities where St Paul visited to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, such as, Philippi, Thessaloniki, Athens and Corinth, among others. Visit the Island of Patmos where the book of the Apocalypse was written, and also visit the seven churches mentioned in the book of the Apocalypse. Enter the Hagia Sophia which was once the grandest church on the face of the earth.



Holy Land

Visit and touch the places where the Christ, our Lord, was born, grew up, lived, ministered and visited in the course of his earthly life. Visit the towns and villages where the early Apostles lived and preached the Gospel to the Early Christians. Make a journey to the land where God chose to reveal the fullness of Himself to humanity.

South Korea

Embark on a journey to understand the history of the persecutions starting from Seoul heading south towards Busan. Visit and touch the resting places of martyred Christians. Hike the birthplace of Catholicism in Chon-Jin Am which started as a small study group. Venerate the relics of St Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, first priest of Korea in Baeron.

Our formation director.

Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek OFS

The Rev. Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek OFS is a Permanent Deacon of the Catholic Church, a Secular Franciscan and a theologian. He is incardinated in the Diocese of Malacca Johor, Malaysia. Deacon Sherman is the convenor of the Splendour Project, a community of friends who have put their charisms and apostolates together to be of service in the evangelising mission of the Catholic Church. He spends much of his time giving catechetical instruction through speaking, writing and media production. He also travels around the region to assist in the catechetical ministry of the Church in various parishes and dioceses. His Doctor of Theology degree, majoring in Theology and Social Theory, was conferred by Trinity Theological College (Singapore). He blogs on www.shermankuek.com.

Our past trips.

When you come on a pilgrimage with the Splendour Project, you don't just become another pilgrim, you become a friend. As evident from the feedback from our pilgrims in the past, they are constantly surprised by the amount of care and attention which the Splendour Project provides along the way, providing them with a pilgrimage of a lifetime - bringing to life the rich teachings of a destination, characters of a place and new friendships that go beyond their expectations.

You can count on us.

Teachings given daily by Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek to ensure your knowledge and understanding

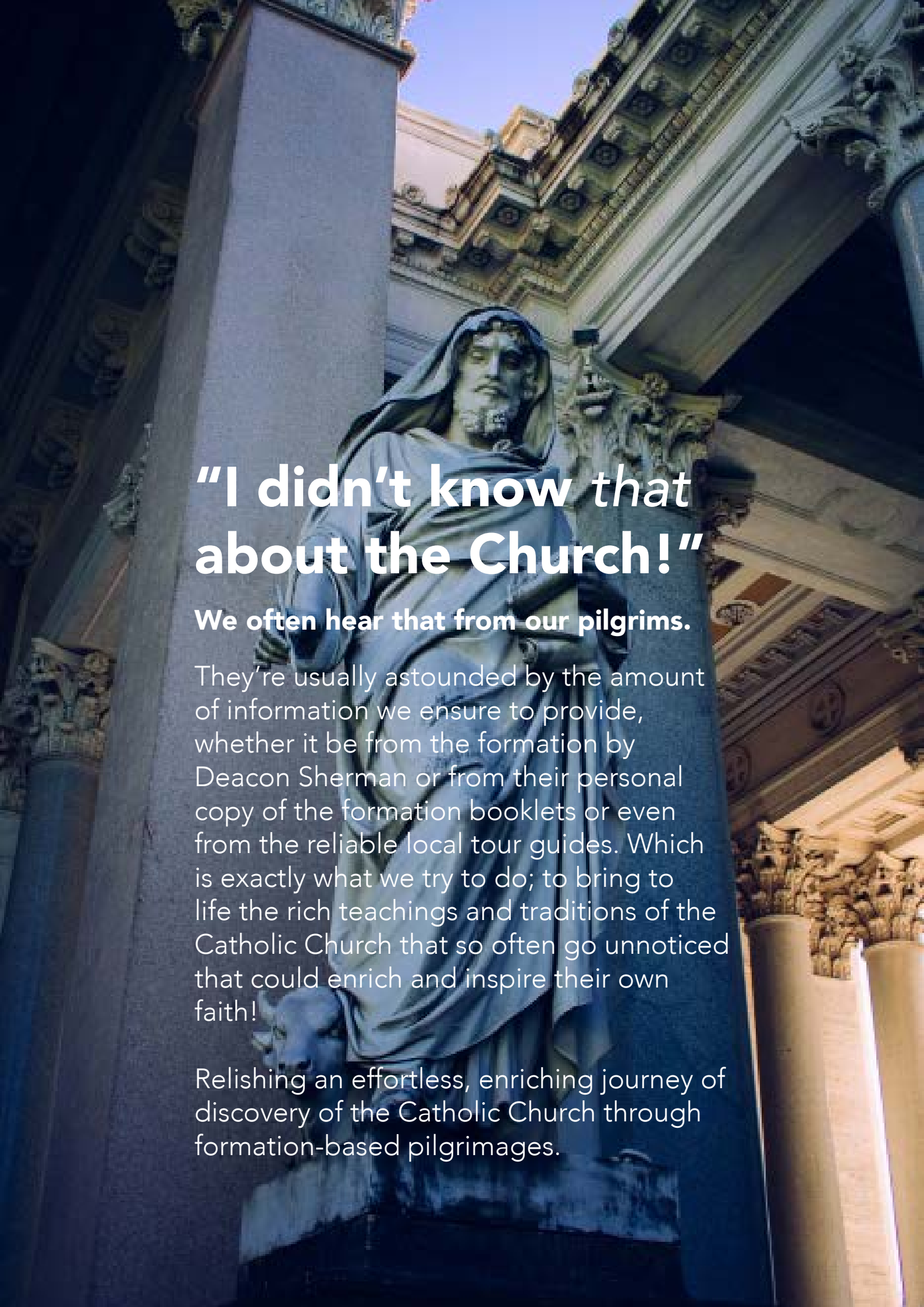
Daily Sacraments and spiritual guidance given by accompanying priest/bishop

A well-researched booklet (with pictures) and a professionally produced full-length video footage of each trip given to every pilgrim

We prioritise your safety and security, and also your maximum benefit in every pilgrimage

No cutting corners, no hidden costs, you get what you pay for!

Insurance coverage



“I didn’t know *that* about the Church!”

We often hear that from our pilgrims.

They’re usually astounded by the amount of information we ensure to provide, whether it be from the formation by Deacon Sherman or from their personal copy of the formation booklets or even from the reliable local tour guides. Which is exactly what we try to do; to bring to life the rich teachings and traditions of the Catholic Church that so often go unnoticed that could enrich and inspire their own faith!

Relishing an effortless, enriching journey of discovery of the Catholic Church through formation-based pilgrimages.

The Splendour difference.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 hour-long 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.

PILGRIMS MUST BE GIVEN A HOLISTIC UNDER-STANDING

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.

The Splendour Project encourages pilgrims to participate in our Trilogy of Pilgrimages, i.e. the Holy Land (known as the 1st Holy land), Rome (known as the 2nd Holy Land), and Greece & Turkey (known as the 3rd Holy Land). Pilgrims who travel on our Trilogy of Pilgrimages will be given a thorough knowledge of how all these places we visit actually are intricately related to one another. Because we are guided by detailed theological research, only we have the means to ensure that you receive information as a coherent whole and not in bits and pieces.

Come now.

Congratulations for making it this far in this pilgrimage guide. We hope you will now consider yourself a discerning pilgrim-to-be. The Splendour Team have your best interest in mind and truly care that you have a wonderful and fruitful pilgrimage. As you flip through the pages in detail, you will see that we are really keen to protect and provide for a faithful pilgrim like yourself. In a nutshell, to register for any of our pilgrimages, all we need to begin with are as listed below. Subsequent payments and other necessary documentations are stipulated in this document. Kindly go through it thoroughly.

1 DEPOSIT OF RM3,000 PER PERSON

2 COLOURED IMAGE OF VALID PASSPORT

3 COMPLETED REGISTRATION & INSURANCE FORM

For any form of assistance or further query, please don't hesitate to contact us at :

(+6) 016.443.2783 (Matthew)
pilgrimages@splendourproject.com

S.P.S.S.

Splendour Pilgrimage Savings Scheme

In recent times, many prospective pilgrims have requested for us to start a savings scheme to enable them to enforce a kind of regular "savings" in order to eventually be able to participate in any one of our pilgrimage trips. In response to this request, the Splendour Pilgrimage Savings Scheme (SPSS) has been launched.

Sejak kebelakangan ini, ramai calon lawatan ziarah meminta kami memulakan skim simpanan untuk membolehkan mereka menguatkuasakan "tabungan" biasa supaya mereka akhirnya dapat menyertai lawatan ziarah kami. Sebagai respons kepada permintaan ini, Splendour Pilgrimage Savings Scheme (SPSS), atau Skim Simpanan Lawatan Ziarah Splendour, telah dilancarkan.

The whole purpose of this scheme is to encourage our pilgrims (who are not yet able to afford to join a trip) to cultivate the discipline of saving in the longer term and eventually be able to participate in a trip of their choice within a span of three years or more.

Satu-satunya tujuan skim ini adalah untuk menggalakkan bakal pelawat ziarah (yang belum mampu untuk menyertai sebuah lawatan ziarah) untuk memupuk disiplin menabung dalam jangkamasa panjang dan akhirnya dapat mengambil bahagian dalam lawatan ziarah pilihan mereka dalam masa tiga tahun atau lebih.

This savings scheme is established by the Splendour Project to allow you to accumulate enough money to join us on one of our pilgrimages of your choice in a span of 3 years or more.

Tabung ini ditubuhkan oleh Splendour Project untuk membolehkan anda mengumpulkan wang yang secukupnya untuk menyertai lawatan ziarah ke tempat pilihan anda dalam jangka masa tiga tahun atau lebih.

The terms and conditions of the SPSS are as follows:

Terma dan syarat SPSS adalah seperti berikut:

Terms & Conditions

1. The minimum instalment for each month is RM350-00 and this monthly instalment continues for 36 months or longer until a minimum amount of RM12,600-00 is accumulated. You are also allowed to deposit more than the stipulated minimum amount.
1. Jumlah minima yang anda harus bayar setiap bulan adalah RM350-00, dan bayaran bulanan ini berlangsung selama 36 bulan atau lebih sehingga anda telah mengumpulkan sekurang-kurangnya RM12,600. Anda juga boleh menabung lebih dari jumlah minima yang ditetapkan.

2. If the fee of the pilgrimage at the time of your final payment is more than the amount of savings accumulated, you will thus be required to pay the remainder of the cost to complete the total fee. On the other hand, if the savings accumulated after the duration is more than the pilgrimage fee, the extra amount saved will be returned to you.
2. Jika harga lawatan anda pada masa yang ditetapkan itu melebihi jumlah yang telah dikumpulkan, anda perlu mencukupkan bayaran anda. Jika harga lawatan itu kurang dari jumlah yang telah dikumpulkan, jumlah yang selebihnya akan dipulangkan kepada anda.

3. Each instalment that is deposited will be followed by an issued receipt for your reference. We will also be keeping a record of the total amount of savings constantly.
3. Setiap ansuran yang dibayar bagi tabung anda anda akan disusuli dengan resit bagi rujukan anda. Pihak kami juga akan menyimpan rekod jumlah bayaran anda.

4. If you have made a decision to pull out from this scheme after an account is opened, the amount saved will be returned to you after a deduction of 10% from the total savings for administrative fees.
4. Jika anda membuat keputusan untuk menarik diri dari tabung ini selepas akaun anda sudah dimulakan, wang yang telah dibayar boleh dipulangkan, tetapi jumlah sebanyak 10 peratus dari jumlah itu akan ditolak sebagai yuran pentadbiran.

5. If you wish to transfer the ownership of this account to another person, the transfer can be done in writing (via email or letter) and 5% from the total savings will be deducted as our administrative fees. After that, the new account holder will be responsible to continue to pay the monthly instalments.
5. Jika anda ingin memindah hakmilik tabung ini kepada orang lain, pindahan ini boleh dibuat secara bertulis (melalui emel atau surat), dan 5 peratus dari jumlah itu akan ditolak sebagai yuran pentadbiran. Selepas itu, pemilik akaun baru itu harus bertanggungjawab untuk meneruskan bayaran bulanan ini.

6. If it is found that no monthly deposits of at least RM350 per month is made in three consecutive months, all the amount saved will be returned after a subtraction of 10% of the total savings as our administrative fees.
6. Jika anda tidak membayar ansuran sekurang-kurangnya RM350 sebulan secara terus-menerus selama 3 bulan, semua wang yang telah dibayar akan dipulangkan selepas 10 peratus dari jumlah yang telah dibayar itu ditolak sebagai yuran pentadbiran.

7. All participants in this scheme will qualify for early bird rebates where these rebates are made available for a particular trip.
7. Semua peserta dalam skim ini akan layak menerima rebat awal apabila rebat ini disediakan untuk trip tertentu.

8. This scheme is open only to Malaysian citizens and permanent residents.
8. Skim ini hanya buka kepada warganegara Malaysia dan pemastautin tetap Malaysia.

9. All terms and conditions are subject to change without prior notice.
9. Segala terma dan syarat adalah tertakluk kepada sebarang perubahan tanpa notis terlebih dahulu.

To join this savings scheme, all you need to do is to fill in the registration form provided to be sent back to us via email or Whatsapp together with the first deposit. Kindly contact us for the registration form and for further bank details. *Untuk menyertai Tabung ini, anda perlu mengisi borang ini dan menghantarnya melalui emel atau whatsapp pada masa yang sama dengan bayaran anda yang pertama. Sila hubungi kita untuk maklumat selanjutnya.*

(+6) 016.443.2783 (Matthew)
pilgrimages@splendourproject.com

ENCOUNTER THE EARLY CHRISTIANS AND EVANGELISTS IN

Greece & Turkey

DATE
21 OCT - 07 NOV 2019

DURATION
18 DAYS

BISHOP
Bishop Cornelius Sim

FORMATION DIRECTOR
Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek OFS

ARRIVE IN
ISTANBUL

DEPART FROM
KUALA LUMPUR

ESTIMATED PRICE
RM16,980 per person (twin sharing)

GREECE & TURKEY

Your trip at a glance.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR TRIP

- ✓ Round-trip airfare from KLIA
- ✓ All airport taxes & fuel surcharges
- ✓ Strategically located 4 or 5 star hotels (or similar)
- ✓ Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily (unless specified)
- ✓ Assistance of a professional local guide(s)
- ✓ Transfers as per itinerary
- ✓ Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- ✓ Catholic Priest available for Spiritual Direction
- ✓ Teachings given daily by Deacon Dr Sherman Kuek to ensure your knowledge and understanding
- ✓ Daily Sacraments given by accompanying priest/ bishop & other spiritual activities
- ✓ A well-researched booklet (with pictures) for personal reference
- ✓ A professionally produced full-length video footage of each trip for every pilgrim
- ✓ Safety and security, and also your maximum benefit in every pilgrimage
- ✓ Tips to your tour guides and driver
- ✓ Travel insurance (for Malaysian passport holders)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Items of personal nature

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER ONLINE!

1,2.

21 OCT (MON)
KLIA/ISTANBUL

Assemble at KLIA at 2000 hours to depart for Istanbul at 2335 hours

22 OCT (TUE)
ISTANBUL / KAVALA (L, D)

You will arrive in Istanbul Airport at around 0515 hours. You will proceed to Turkish border and transfer to Alexandroupolis. Continue to **Kavala**, the port where St Paul arrived at for his missionary journey. Visit **St Paul's Church in Kavala**, built to commemorate his arrival to Asia Minor. Mass will be celebrated here. Have dinner and stay a night in Kavala.

3.

23 OCT (WED)
KAVALA / PHILIPPI / THESSALONIKI (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at hotel. Check out of hotel for photo stop and short stroll around Kavala, proceed to **Philippi** through the plains of Macedonia following the ancient Roman Egnatia Road. Visit **Lydia' Baptistry** where St Paul baptised the first European woman named Lydia. Mass will be celebrated here. Proceed to the **Philippi Archaeological Site**, where St Paul was imprisoned for his teaching. After lunch, transfer to **Thessaloniki**, where St Paul preached also. Tour around city of Thessaloniki to see the White Tower and Statue of Alexander the Great. Have dinner and stay a night in Thessaloniki.

4.

24 OCT (THU)
THESSALONIKI / VERIA / KALAMBAKA (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at hotel. Check out of hotel in Thessaloniki and visit **Hagios Demetrios Church**, an Eastern Orthodox church dedicated to and containing the relics of St Demetrios. Learn more about the Byzantine period at the **Museum of Byzantine Culture** in Thessaloniki. After lunch, continue journey to Veria to view the **Altar of St Paul**, built in place of the ancient synagogue where St Paul came to preach. Mass will be celebrated here. Continue your journey to **Kalambaka** for an exclusive iconography workshop. Have dinner and stay one night here.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

5.

25 OCT (FRI)
KALAMBAKA / DELPHI (B, L, D)

Formation and breakfast at hotel. Mass will be celebrated in the hotel today. Check out of hotel and proceed to **Meteora** and visit **Eastern Christian monasteries** that seems to be suspended in mid-air as they were built on top of natural rock-formations, some 400 m above sea level. After lunch, proceed to **Delphi**, what was known as the centre of the ancient world. Have dinner and stay a night in Delphi.

6.

26 OCT (SAT)
DELPHI / ATHENS (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at hotel. Check out of hotel and drive to **Hosios Loukas Monastery**, a 10th Century Byzantine monastery and church. Mass will be celebrated around the vicinity here. After lunch, transfer to **Athens** just in time for the **Acropolis of Athens**. It is also here we see the **Areios Pagos**, where St Paul stood to address the people of Athens. Have dinner and stay one night in Athens.

7.

27 OCT (SUN)
ATHENS / CORINTH (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at hotel. Check out of hotel and drive to **Corinth**, the ancient city where St Paul worked with Aquila and Priscilla. Today you can see the **Bema of St Paul** at the archaeological site. Stop by the **Corinth Canal** for some photos. After lunch in Athens, visit the **Catholic Cathedral of St Dionysus** to celebrate Mass. Be transported back in time with a visit to the **Byzantine Museum of Athens** and understand deeper the life during that period. Packed dinner en-route to the port Piraeus and board ferry to depart for Patmos.

8.

28 OCT (MON)
PATMOS/KUSADASI (B, L, D)

Once you arrive in **Patmos**, disembark from ferry and board coach for transfer to hotel for rest. After breakfast at hotel, check out of hotel and proceed for visit to **Holy Grotto of Revelation** where St John spent his exile in and consequently received the vision. Mass will be celebrated in the vicinity. Take in the gorgeous vista of this Greek island at the **Monastery of St John**, a fortified orthodox monastery on top the highest point of Patmos. After lunch, board a private charter ferry to Kusadasi, Turkey.

9.

29 OCT (TUE)
KUSADASI/EPHESUS/IZMIR (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at hotel. Check out of hotel and proceed to visit the **House of Mother Mary** in **Ephesus**. This is where the Blessed Virgin Mary was believed to have stayed until she was assumed into heaven. Mass will be celebrated here. Later, marvel at the magnitude of the ancient city at the **Ephesus Archaeological Site**, with the help of the reconstructed Library of Celcus, the amphitheatre and the Temple of Hadrian. Ephesus was also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. After lunch, transfer to Izmir. Have a photo stop at Artemis Temple. Have dinner and check into hotel for two nights.

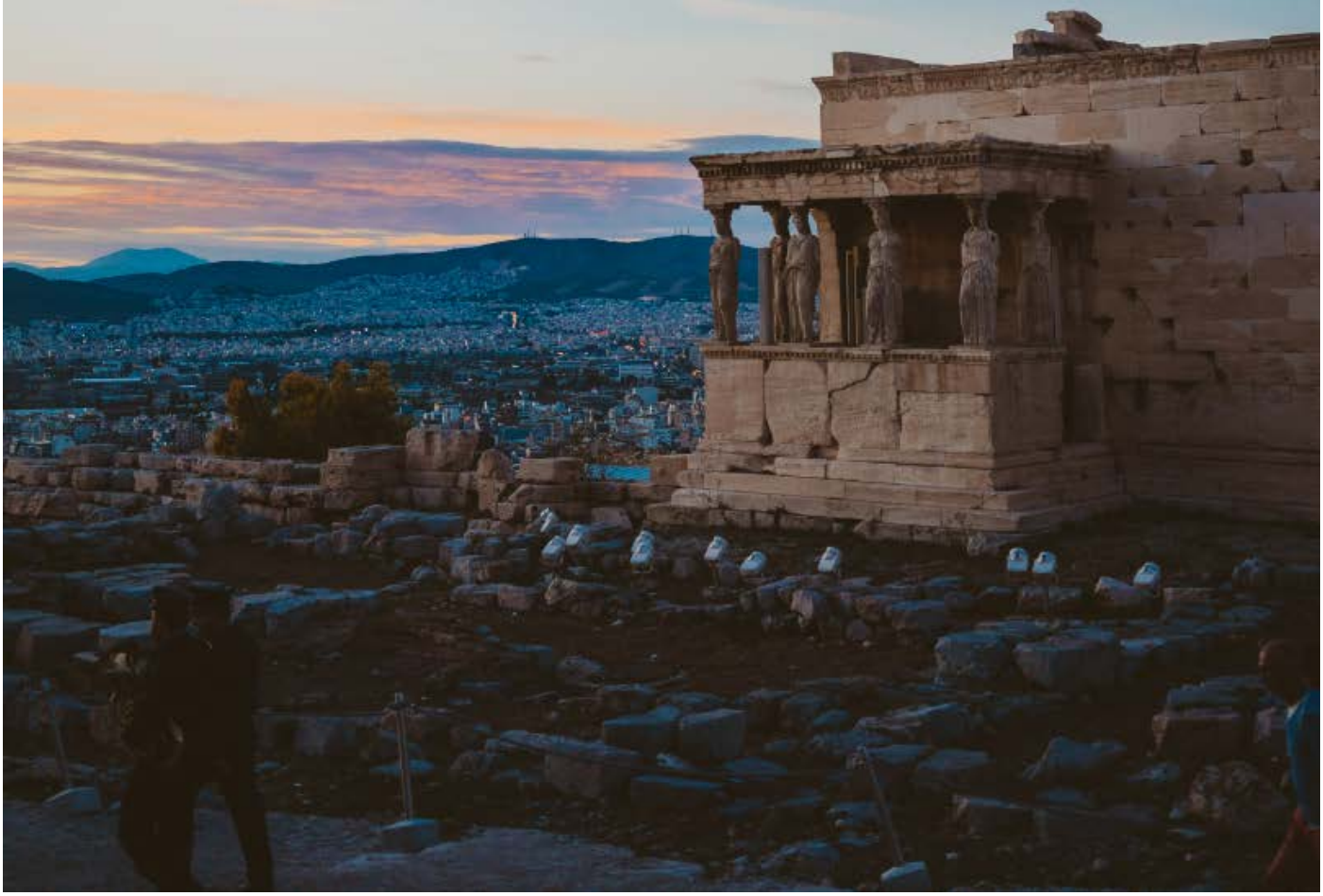
10.

30 OCT (WED)
IZMIR/SMYRNA/PERGAMUM / THYATIRA / IZMIR (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at hotel. Learn more about **St Polycarp Church**, the oldest church in Izmir and how it represents ancient **Smyrna's** roles as one of the **Seven Churches of Revelation**. Mass will be celebrated here. Transfer to Pergamum for lunch. Take a cable car ride to the **Acropolis of Pergamum**. As you visit the ruins of the Altar of Zeus and the Temple of Trojan, understand why this was one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Transfer to **Thyatira** to visit the ruins the ancient city of Thyatira and the remains of a 6th Century church, which was also one of the Seven Churches of Revelation. Head back to Izmir for dinner and overnight.

Paul waited for them in Athens and there his whole soul was revolted at the sight of a city given over to idolatry. In the synagogue he debated with the Jews and the godfearing, and in the market place he debated every day with anyone whom he met. Even a few Epicurean and Stoic philosophers argued with him. Some said, 'What can this parrot mean?' And, because he was preaching about Jesus and Resurrection, others said, 'He seems to be a propagandist for some outlandish gods.'

- ACTS 17:16-18



11.

31 OCT (THU)
IZMIR / SARDIS / PHILADELPHIA / LAODICEA / PAMUKKALE (B, L, D)

Formation and breakfast at hotel. Mass will be celebrated in the hotel today. Check out of hotel and transfer to visit the ruins of the ancient city of **Sardis** (one of the Seven Churches of Revelation). Depart for **Philadelphia** another one of the Seven Churches of Revelation to visit the remains of a 5th Century church. After lunch, visit the final of the Seven Churches of Revelation at **Laodicea** and understand scriptures as you understand the geographical context of the ancient city. Finish your day dipping your toes in the thermal pools with beautiful cascading snow white terraced cliff at the **Travertine (Cotton Castle)** in Pamukkale. The **Hierapolis** that shares the location of Pamukkale was also mentioned by St Paul in his letter to the Colossians. Have dinner and stay one night here.

12.

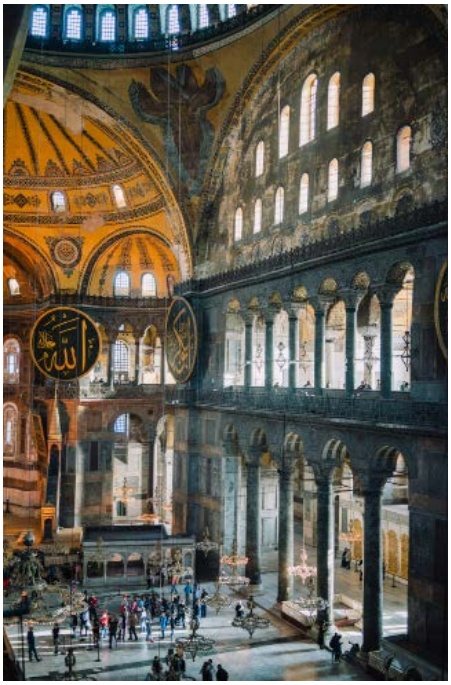
01 NOV (FRI)
PAMUKKALE / CAPPADOCIA (B, L, D)

Formation and breakfast at hotel. Mass will be celebrated in the hotel today. Check out of hotel and drive via Konya (Iconium). After lunch, proceed to the **Sultanhani Caravanserai**, a typically Turkish traditional rest stop used by traders since the 10th century. Continue your journey to **Cappadocia** one of Turkey's richest location both in history and natural geography. Check into hotel, have dinner and stay for two nights.

13.

02 NOV (SAT)
CAPPADOCIA (B, L, D)

Formation and breakfast at hotel. Mass will be celebrated in the hotel today. Proceed to visit the **Goreme Open Air Museum** which resembles a vast monastic complex composed of monasteries and churches. Crouch six floors underground at the **Underground City**, a safe refuge for Early Christians from the raiding Romans and then Muslims. After lunch, drop by for photo stops at **Pigeon's Valley, Hunter's Valley and Uchisar Castle**. If time permits, spend some time learning about the local art of carpet weaving, pottery and jewellery making at their own respective schools and centres. Have dinner and spend the second night here.



14.

03 NOV (SUN)
CAPPADOCIA / ANKARA / BOLU (B, L, D)

Breakfast and formation at the hotel. Mass will be celebrated in the hotel today. Check out of hotel and then proceed to Bolu City. But first, drop by **Salt Lake or Lake Tuz** occupying a tectonic depression in the central plateau of Turkey and an active salt source to the locals. After lunch, continue the journey to Bolu City. Before checking in to the hotel for one night stay, do some sightseeing at **Lake Golcuk in Bolu**.

15.

04 NOV (MON)
BOLU / IZNIK / ISTANBUL (B, L, D)

Formation and breakfast at hotel. Check out of hotel and transfer to Iznik, formerly known as **Nicaea** to visit the site of the two Councils of Nicaea. The Nicene Creed was formulated here and recited until today. After lunch in Iznik, depart for Istanbul via Orhangazi Bridge. In Istanbul, visit the **Cathedral of St Esprit** and celebrate Mass here. Have dinner in Istanbul and check into hotel for a two night stay.

16.

05 NOV (TUE)
ISTANBUL (B, L, D)

No formation today. After breakfast proceed to **Church of St Anthony of Padua**, the biggest active Catholic Church in Turkey under the custody of the OFM Conventuals. Experience Istanbul from an interesting perspective with a cruise along the **Straits of Bosphorus**, abridging the Black Sea to the Marmara Sea which forms the boundary between the Asian and Western parts of the Turkey. After lunch, visit the **Hagia Sophia**, the former See of Constantinople during the Byzantine era which was seized during the Ottoman Empire and converted into a mosque, and which now stands as a museum. Later, visit **St George's (Orthodox) Patriarchate**, the principal Greek Orthodox cathedral still in use in Istanbul, the largest city in Turkey. After dinner, attend the final formation session tonight.

17.

06 NOV (WED)
ISTANBUL (B, L, D)

Breakfast at the hotel and then check out. Proceed to **St Mary Draperis Church**, a beautiful church in the heart of Istanbul. Mass will be celebrated here. Proceed to the **Grand Bazaar**, often regarded as one of the first shopping malls of the world. After lunch, visit the **Egyptian Spice Bazaar,** endowed to the foundation of the New Mosque. After dinner, transfer to airport for flight departure to KLIA at 0205 hours on 09 Nov.

18.

07 NOV (THU)
KLIA

Flight departs Istanbul at 0205 hours and arrives in KLIA at about 1720 hours

Almost there!

PRINT THIS PAGE!

REGISTRATION FORM FOR GREECE & TURKEY

Kindly take note that it is mandatory to fill in ALL the spaces below in BLOCK letters. You confirm that all the information provided in this form is accurate.

CHRISTIAN NAME	**BIRTHDATE**	**AGE**
PASSPORT NAME		
PASSPORT NUMBER	**NRIC NUMBER**	
PLACE OF ISSUE	**ADDRESS**	
EXPIRY DATE		
MOBILE NUMBER		
PARISH NAME		
EMAIL ADDRESS		
SERIOUS MEDICAL CONDITION (IF ANY)		
PRESENT PHYSICAL CONDITION (TICK) ◯ FIT ◯ SEMI-FIT ◯ UNABLE TO CLIMB	**PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION** (NAME, IF ANY)	
FOOD ALLERGIES (IF ANY)	**SHARING ROOMS WITH** (NAME & RELATIONSHIP, IF ANY)	
OTHER ALLERGIES (IF ANY)		

How did you first find out about the Splendour Project's formation-based pilgrimages? You can select multiple answers.

☐ Recommendation from past pilgrims	☐ Through our website
☐ Through Catholic newspapers	☐ Through Splendour formation events
☐ Through WhatsApp or Facebook	Others (please specify)

We got you covered.

PRINT THIS PAGE!

PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS

1. Your payment schedule is as follows:

- RM3,000 on booking, submitted together with this form
- 50% of the balance, payable 4 months (120 days) before departure date
- Final 50% of the balance, settled 2 months (60 days) before departure date

Note: Registration is confirmed only upon payment of the deposit.

2. Possible modes of payment:

- Cash or crossed cheque (payable to **CAPRICORN TRAVEL SERVICES SDN BHD**)
- Direct Transfer to Maybank Account No. **5123 1662 1821**
- Account name: **CAPRICORN TRAVEL SERVICES SDN BHD**

Branch: Bandar Sunway
Swift code for overseas transfer: MBBEMYKL

3. Kindly email or WhatsApp us your payment slips as proof of payment. Payment receipts will be issued upon verification of payment.

4. Please submit coloured images of your passports with 6 months validity from date of travel.

5. Kindly submit the registration and insurance form including the stipulated documents above to us according to the contacts provided below. Submissions via WhatsApp are also accepted.

Submit to

Matthew

(+6)016-443 2783

pilgrimages@splendourproject.com

Holders of Malaysian passports (or Permanent Residents or those on Malaysian Work Permit) are fully insured under the group insurance policy, which covers everything that travel insurance usually covers.

Holders of non-Malaysian passports cannot be insured under the group insurance policy. We advise that they acquire insurance coverage from their own countries of residence. Alternatively, should they require our assistance, they can be insured with another scheme (at a negligible extra charge), and this scheme is available under the condition that they follow our tour departure from the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

*WE STRONGLY ADVISE FOR ALL PILGRIMS WHO ARE NON-MALAYSIAN PASSPORT HOLDERS TO OBTAIN COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE COVERAGE.

INSURANCE FORM

Insurance coverage is provided for all Malaysian passport holders and permanent residents. For non-Malaysian passport holders, we still encourage you to provide us the details and then notify us regarding your choice of insurance as stated above.

BENEFICIARY NAME

NRIC NUMBER

RELATIONSHIP

MOBILE NUMBER

ADDRESS

**Beneficiary/Nominee must not be someone traveling with you*

Booking conditions.

1. BOOKINGS AND DEPOSITS

A deposit of MYR3,000 is required at the time of booking, and is refundable only if a trip is cancelled for a reason that is apparently due to the fault of the Organiser. To affect a booking, a 25% of the total cost of itinerary or the amount stipulated in the booking form as deposit, will be required. Payment of deposit however, does not guarantee a confirmed booking, as it is subject to the availability of air seats and ground arrangements (accommodation, sightseeing and tours, transfers and meals where applicable).

2. BALANCE / FULL PAYMENT

Balance for the confirmed booking must be paid either in full at least 4 months (120 days) prior to the date of departure or in two equal parts at least 4 months (120 days) and 2 months (60 days) prior to the date of departure. Failure to comply may result in an automatic cancellation and forfeiture of deposit paid or otherwise subject to prior agreement in writing.

3. CANCELLATIONS

Cancellation must be made in writing to avoid any misunderstanding. In the event of cancellation of tour reservation after settlement of deposits and /or full payment the following charges will apply:

CHARGES FOR CANCELLATION

Period prior to tour commencement	*Cancellation fee (% of Package Price)*
More than 60 days	Deposit
51 to 60 days	50%
31 to 50 days	75%
30 days or less	100%

4. UNAVOIDABLE ALTERATIONS

The Organiser reserves the right to omit and/or change the components of a tour, including dates of a tour, should conditions necessitate or to offer substitutes of similar value with or without prior notice. This applies to flights, accommodation, sightseeing and tours, transport, meals and the services of an accompanying tour manager.

5. FORCE MAJEURE

The Organiser shall not be responsible for any injury, damage, loss, delay, additional expense or inconvenience caused directly or indirectly to tour member by force majeure or other events which are beyond the Organiser's control, such as war, civil disturbance, fire, floods, unusually severe weather, acts of God, acts of Government or broken machinery or equipment as a part of the tour.

6. PASSPORTS / VISAS

It is the responsibility of the tour member to ensure that his/her passport has at least 6 months' validity prior to a trip's commencement and that relevant entry visa(s) have been applied for and obtained prior to the date of departure. Should the application be rejected and the tour member unable to travel, refund will be made but subject to Item 3. Foreign passport holders should be responsible for their own re-entry permit/visa into Malaysia.

7. REFUNDS / UNUSED SERVICES

No refunds can be made in respect of meals, sightseeing and tours, accommodation or any other services which are included in the tour price but not utilised by tour member.

8. TOUR PRICES

Tour prices are subject to change due to increase in airfares, hotel rates, exchange rates, government tax, etc with or without prior notice. In event that the final number of persons is reduced from the original number quoted for, the tour fare is subject to change according to a revised fare based on the actual

number in the group. Tour prices do not include visa application fees for non-Malaysian passport holders.

9. SINGLE TOUR PRICE

For single tour member travelling alone, the single tour price must be paid, either by choice or circumstance.

10. AIR TICKET AND EXTENSION OF STAY

Air ticket is a special ticket restricted to respective airlines. It is non-endorsable, non- transferable, non-rerouteable and non-refundable (inclusive of unutilised sector). Any alteration from the original itinerary is the sole responsibility of the tour member and the alteration is subject to the validity of the air ticket. The Organiser and its associated agents will not be held responsible for any inconveniences caused and /or any extra expenses incurred.

11. BAGGAGE

Each tour member is allowed to check in with ONE suitcase luggage not exceeding 23 kilograms on all commercial scheduled flights. The Organiser assumes no liability for any damage or loss of baggage (this is usually covered by the respective airlines or the travel insurance).

12. MEDIA PRODUCTION

The Organiser reserves the right to utilise any form of media production, including but not limited to photographs and video footages taken during the tour for publicity purpose.

13. TRAVEL INSURANCE

Purchase of a comprehensive travel insurance policy is strongly recommended, even though it is not included in the tour package for non-Malaysian passport holders. Malaysian passport holders and permanent residents are usually covered under group insurance.

14. HEALTH

All tour members are advised to seek medical advice before traveling.

15. RESPONSIBILITY

The Organiser and its associated agents act only as agents for transportation companies, hotel contractors and other principals. We accept no responsibility for injuries, damage, accident, loss, delay, quarantine, theft, custom regulations, strikes, deportation or refusal of entry immigration authorities resulting from improper travel documents, possession of unlawful items or irregularities that may be caused to person or property. Any losses or expenses are the responsibility of the participants. All proper travel documentation is the sole responsibility of the participants. Every tour member will be regarded in every aspect as carrying his /her own risk.
Should there be any tour member exhibiting conduct during the tour that is deemed unreasonable and detrimental to the well-being and safety of other tour members and the smooth running of the tour, the tour manager is given full discretion to (1) deal with such person and / or (2) ask such a person to leave the tour. The decision of the tour manager is final and conclusive and the Organiser will not be responsible for making refunds on any uncompleted part of the tour.

The Organiser will not be held responsible if any tour member is prevented from traveling on an aircraft in the event that it is the opinion of any person in authority at the airport that the tour member appears to be intoxicated or drug afflicted and is deemed likely to cause discomfort to other passengers. Full cancellation charge will apply and no refund will be given. Any extra costs incurred in respect of alternative arrangements made will be borne by the tour member concerned.

The Organiser cannot accept any liability for the actions of those concerned with any aspect of optional sightseeing tours and other services bought and provided locally over which the Organiser has no direct control.

16. LIABILITY

It is expressly agreed between the tour member and the Organiser that all courses of action shall be at all times guided by legal jurisdiction which is applicable within the territory of Malaysia regardless of the place or country in which a cause of action arises.

17. CHANGE OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Terms and conditions stipulated in this form are subject to change without prior notice, but always done with due regard to the common good of all tour members.

***In order to avoid confusion, we advise for pilgrims to refrain from attempting to liaise with our appointed travel agents. Trips are organised and managed by the Splendour Project, and pilgrims are advised to communicate directly with our Communications Manager (Matthew).**

Frequently asked questions.

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE ON TOUR WITH ME?

Passenger numbers on Splendour pilgrimages are limited to a busload with very occasional exceptions.

2. HOW CAN I KNOW IF MY TRIP IS A GUARANTEED DEPARTURE?

Our trips are rarely, if ever, cancelled or postponed. But if you are uncertain, it is best to contact us for confirmation.

RESERVATIONS & DOCUMENTATIONS

1. CAN I BOOK FOR A GROUP?

It is possible for you to form your own group. Depending on the group size, the pricing will differ from the stipulated prices. Terms & Conditions for group bookings may differ from those for individual bookings as well. Please contact us for further details.

2. DO I NEED TRAVEL INSURANCE?

Purchase of a comprehensive travel insurance policy is strongly recommended, even though it is not included in the tour package for non-Malaysian passport holders. Malaysian passport holders and permanent residents are usually covered under our group insurance with no extra charge.

3. WHAT IF I AM TRAVELLING ALONE?

For single travellers who prefer the privacy of their own room, single accommodation can be reserved. Prices for single room supplements are also listed on the respective webpage for each trip.

However, we strongly encourage you to find a traveling partner, someone whom you can be comfortable to be sharing the room with. We have been discouraged by the tour agents to pair single pilgrims. If we do the pairing you might not get a partner that you're comfortable with and if there's no partner, then extra charges will apply for single supplement.

4. WHAT IS A SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT?

If you prefer the privacy of your own room, this can be arranged for you with an extra fee. Single supplement prices are listed on the respective webpage for each trip.

5. DO I NEED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS?

Passports are needed when travelling outside your country. Your passport should have at least six months validity from your planned date of departure. A coloured copy of your passport should be submitted along with your completed registration form for us to make the necessary reservations.

Malaysian passport holders are normally included in our group visa (wherever required). Non-Malaysian passport holders may need separate visas to enter certain countries. We strongly advise that you consult us well in advance to determine which visas you require and how to obtain them.

PRIOR TO DEPARTURE

1. AM I EXPECTED TO PAY GRATUITIES (TIPS)?

Your gratuities are most usually included in the total cost of your pilgrimage. In instances where they are not, you will be informed accordingly.

2. HOW DO I EXCHANGE CURRENCY?

Currency can be exchanged at your local money changers, banks and airports. You should exchange your money prior to the trip.

Debits and credit cards are accepted at most bank machines throughout the world. It is advised that you check with your bank prior to departure, to be sure that your cards operate in the destinations you are travelling. To find out which currency is used in each destination, don't hesitate to contact us.

3. HOW MUCH LUGGAGE CAN I BRING?

Due to airline restrictions, limited coach capacity and keeping within the guidelines of Occupation Health and safety, you are only allowed to bring with you one (1) piece of check in luggage per person and one

(1) piece of hand carry luggage per person.

Your single luggage should have dimensions not exceeding 76x53x28cm (30"x 21"x 11") and weight not exceeding 23 kg. Your single hand carry luggage should not exceed the dimensions of 30x28x14cm (12"x11"x6") and weight not exceeding 7 kg.

We do understand that slight variations to these dimensions will occur and provided the variations are only slight, luggage will be accepted on the coach. Due to limited space on luggage racks in the coach and for safety reasons, wheeled carry-on bags are not suitable as hand luggage on motorcoaches and minibuses as these bags can cause damage to persons and property if it falls from the overhead compartments for any reason. A carry-on bag and a handbag will be suitable inside the coach.

4. WILL I REQUIRE ANY VACCINATIONS?

We recommend that you go for a flu vaccination before the trip. The vaccination lasts for a year. It won't stop all flu viruses and the level of protection may vary between people, so it's not a 100% guarantee that you'll be flu-free, but if you do get a flu vaccination, it's likely to be milder and shorter-lived than it would otherwise have been.

5. CAN YOU ARRANGE FOR A TRIPLE ROOM?

Triple-room configurations are sometimes available, and at other times not, depending on the size of the hotels and the convention in any one particular country. Where they are available, they are likely to involve double beds and rollaway beds. They are unlikely to be three separate beds. We usually advise against triple-room configurations as there is not much cost saving, if any. Also, hotel rooms in many countries, especially around Europe, tend to be rather congested.

DURING THE TRIP

1. ARE THERE LAUNDRY FACILITIES?

Most hotels offer a laundry service, however it can sometimes be costly.

2. HOW CAN I CONTACT FRIENDS AND FAMILY?

Internet
Most of the hotels have free internet connection, at least at the lobby area although it's no guarantee. Separate extra charges may even apply for some hotel for Wi-Fi usage. Depending on your destination, some motorcoaches now also offer free wireless Internet connection. So, as you're enjoying your tour, you can share your experience with friends and relatives back home... and it's at no cost!

Telephones
On tour, hotels will either have telephones available in-room or at reception. Any such call charges will be billed to your room.

Mobile phones
A mobile phone is often the easiest way to contact friends and family, however it can be costly. Your mobile phones will be able to roam if you have subscribed to roaming services from your local network provider. You should check international calling and text rates with your cell phone provider and disable data roaming.

3. IS SMOKING ALLOWED ON THE COACH?

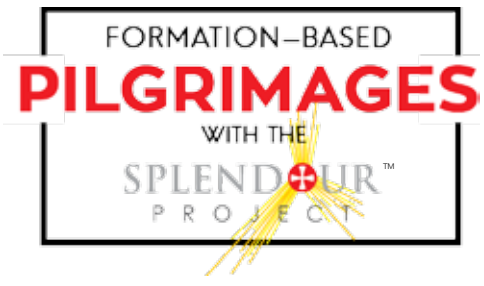
Smoking is not permitted on board the coach.

ANY OTHER QUESTIONS

If you have more questions or any other concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to us:

Matthew
+6.016.443.2783 (WhatsApp)

pilgrimages@
splendourproject.com



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