

# 8 Day/7 Night - Catholic Pilgrimage to MEXICO

## Our Lady of Guadalupe



September 14 - 21, 2024



Close-up of Our Lady of Guadalupe



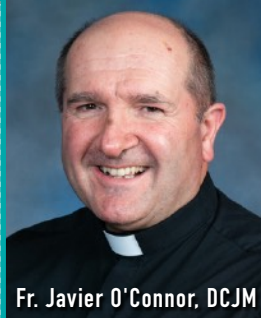
### 8 Days / 7 Nights Trip Inclusions:

- Round Trip Air Transportation to Mexico City from **Denver's International Airport**. (Airfare may be possible from other cities for an additional price).
- Round trip airport/hotel/airport transfers in Mexico in private Air Conditioned Motor-coach (for those traveling with the group and those arriving before group arrives).
- Nice central accommodations in Puebla and Mexico City.
- 15 Meals: 7\* Breakfasts, 4 Lunches and 4 Dinners (most beverages not included).
- Private motor coach transportation with driver.
- Full touring program including Panoramic, Archeological and Cultural Tours to Historical and Religious places of interest. + All entrance ticket fees to complement the itinerary.
- Spiritual Program including Rosaries, Meditations, Holy Mass & Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Fr. Javier O'Connor, DCJM**, Parochial Vicar at St. Mary Catholic Parish Littleton Colorado, Archdiocese of Denver, as Pilgrimage Chaplain
- **Guillermo Tejeda** - Mater Dei's local representative and official licensed guide. **Jesus Martinez** as professional coach driver.
- **Susan Swanson**, from Stella Maris and **Juan Landa**, as Mater Dei's US Tour Directors & Coordinators.
- Gratuities included for Bell Captains & Servers of all included meals. ➔ (tips not included for local tour guide & bus driver).
- Local, Sales & Hospitality Taxes.
- U.S. & Mexico's airport fees, departure fees, transportation taxes, ticketing fees & fuel surcharges (subject to change) + hospitality, restaurant and sales taxes.

### Exclusions:

- Most beverages are not included with meals.
  - Tour Guide's gratuity (Suggested: \$8 per day, per person).
  - Bus Driver (Suggested: \$4 per day, per person).
  - Housekeeping Tips (Suggested \$1 per day, per room).
  - Mass Offerories (at your discretion).
- (See registration for prices and back of brochure for terms & conditions)

**NOTE: This pilgrimage is operated during the covid era. Please read the 4 important notes on page #2 of the brochure.**



[www.MaterDeiTours.com](http://www.MaterDeiTours.com) – Phone: 1-608-440-3700



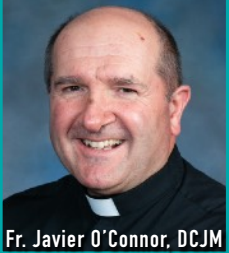
**SEPTEMBER 14 TO 21, 2024**

**Note 1:** US Citizens require a US Passport, valid up to the day after the return date.

**NOTE 2:** In case our Chaplain becomes unable to participate, the pilgrimage will continue to operate and every effort will be made to obtain a substitute Priest.

**NOTE 3:** Although a motor-coach is provided, it is important to note that pilgrimages require a considerable amount of walking.

**Note 4:** Please read COVID-19 section of the Terms & Conditions (page 4 of this brochure - 3rd column). At brochure printing time, US Citizens had no vaccination requirements or covid testing requirements to enter Mexico or re-enter the USA.



Fr. Javier O'Connor, DCJM

**Day 1: Saturday, September 14th: U.S.A. to México City & Puebla.**

Board your flight to México City. After clearing Mexican Immigrations and Customs, meet Guillermo, your official government certified Tour Guide. After clearing customs, Airport Skycaps take care of your checked luggage (1 piece per person) and after loading it in our group's motor coach, our group departs for the State of Puebla. A late dinner awaits us at the hotel's restaurant. **(D)**

**Day 2: Sunday, September 15th: Tlaxcala / Our Lady of Ocotlán / San Miguel del Milagro.**

Leave Puebla today and travel to the state of Tlaxcala (smallest in the country), an area very special to Our Lady, to visit two very famous churches with dramatic stories of faith. First, experience **Our Lady of Ocotlán**, an amazing example of baroque and churrigueresque architecture. Inside this magnificent church, we can observe the image of Our Lady miraculously carved inside a tree in the year 1541 after an apparition of Our Lady to a local boy. **Sunday Mass\*** celebrated here. Learn how the sacristan/custodian of the parish church came to believe in the miraculous powers of this apparition and the statue left behind. This apparition involves healing water and we will have the opportunity to bring home some of the water that still flows from the miraculous spring. Afterwards, stop for a **pleasant lunch** (included) in Tlaxcala, and if time permits, visit the town's outdoor market. After lunch, visit **San Miguel del Milagro (St. Michael of the Miracle)** where tradition tells us that **St. Michael the Archangel** appeared three times to a local peasant to have him announce a source of water with miraculous healing powers for all the faithful. Return to our historical hotel in Puebla. Dinner on your own. **(B, L)**

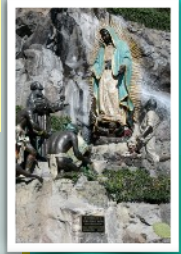


**Day 3: Monday, September 16th: Puebla: San Francisco / Santo Domingo / Puebla Cathedral // Cholula: Our Lady of Good Remedy / Church of Tonantzintla.**

After breakfast, depart for Cholula where reputedly the largest pyramid in the world can be found. Climb the pyramid/hill and perform the traditional prayers of intentions on the final steps leading to the church. On top of the pyramid lies the beautiful **Church of Our Lady of Good Remedy**. Cholula has a very rich history of different epochs of México. This is where Hernán Cortes accomplished a controversial but very important victory for the conquest of México. It is also here where the world famous "Cinco de Mayo" (May 5<sup>th</sup>) battle occurred, where Mexicans were able to win a great victory that temporarily detained French imperialism in México. Cholula also claims to have a Chapel for every day of the year! Our last stop is at the **Church of Tonantzintla** where the most beautiful example of Indo-Christian decoration can be admired. Return to Puebla for lunch at our hotel. After lunch, join us on a walking tour of **Puebla**, the fourth largest city in México and a great example of Spanish colonial architecture. The Puebla region is famous for its beautiful Churches and its hand painted "Talavera" tiles. Visit the unforgettable **Cathedral of Puebla** (2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the country). Next, visit is one of the most richly decorated chapels in all of México, the historic **Chapel of Our Lady of The Rosary**. **Mass\*** planned at **Church of San Francisco**, where we find the incorrupt remains of **Blessed Sebastian Aparicio**. After Mass, enjoy an evening at leisure in Puebla with dinner on your own. **(B, L)**



# Our Lady of Guadalupe



Close-up of Our Lady of Guadalupe

**Day 4: Tuesday, September 17th: Pyramids of Teotihuacán / México City.**

After breakfast, if weather cooperates, we should be able to enjoy majestic views of México's 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest peaks (including the legendary volcanoes of **Popocatepetl** and **Itzacchuatl**) as we travel to a **posada** for a delicious **lunch buffet**. Then, we visit the amazing complex of pyramids and temples that comprise the mysterious **City of Teotihuacán**, one of the best preserved pre-Columbian cities in the Americas and the most important city in North America around 500 AD, with a population of approximately 200,000 inhabitants. The visit gives us a better idea of the culture and indigenous customs of St. Juan Diego's ancestors. Before departing the area, we witness the different and very important ancient uses of the **Maguey plant** (from the cactus family) and its relationship to the Ayate of St. Juan Diego. Afterwards, visit **St. Juan Diego's old home** which is the site of the **Fifth and Last Apparition of Our Lady (Mass\* celebrated here)**. A church and a well with spring water now stand at the site where Our Lady appeared and cured Juan Diego's uncle. If we are fortunate, we will descend under the altar to the place where Our Lady appeared and gave us her name, Our Lady of Guadalupe. There will also be an opportunity to get spring water to bring home. Later, check in at our hotel in México City for the first of a 4-night stay. Join your fellow pilgrims at one of the hotel's restaurants for dinner. **(B, L, D)**

**Mater Dei's Mexico Team**  
Guillermo, Jesús & Juan

**Meals' Legend:**  
M = Airplane Meals    B = Breakfast  
L = Lunch                    D = Dinner

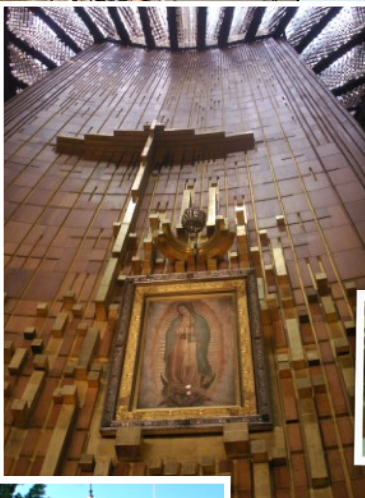
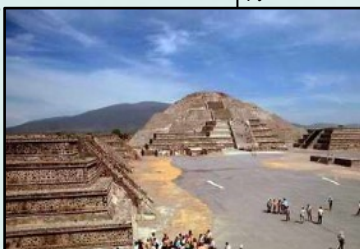
**NOTE:** Events may change in order. \*Mass locations may change in obedience to local ecclesiastical authorities.





**Day 5: Wednesday, September 18th: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe / Anthropology Museum / Sagrada Familia (Blessed Miguel Pro) / Zocalo and Metropolitan Cathedral.**

Enjoy a delicious breakfast and prepare for a memorable travel day. Taking the longest avenue in México, "Avenida de los Insurgentes" (Insurgents Avenue), depart the Federal District (equivalent to our District of Columbia) to the State of México to visit the most sacred Sanctuary in all of México, the **Sanctuary of Our Lady of Guadalupe**. A video introduction of the Guadalupe story will be shown onboard our motor coach. Until now our pilgrimage has been an introduction in order to better understand the cultural background that led to the construction of this impressive complex where the Virgin Mary appeared to the humble Native American Juan Diego (now St. Juan Diego), an event that inspired the conversion of millions of Native Americans of that time. Upon arrival, our tour guides have prepared for us a brief presentation on the many amazing facts regarding St. Juan Diego's Ayate at one of the gift shops (there will be a restroom break here with some brief shopping). Afterwards, our group departs the gift shop with a flower arrangement for Our Lady. We proceed to visit the **New Basilica** where the original 'ayate' of St. Juan Diego is prominently displayed for all to see. Our group will move closer to the area right underneath the Ayate where a moving platform continually moves from side to side in order to keep pilgrims safe and guarantee that they will get to see Our Lady (you will have another opportunity to visit her later in the week). Then, visit the famous "bent Cross" of the Altar and the imposing statue of St. John Paul the Great. **Mass\*** is planned at one of the Chapels on the Shrine's grounds. Afterwards, return to the city center where a delicious **lunch** has been prepared for our group. Continue our panoramic drive of the "D.F.", or "Distrito Federal" (Federal District) and travel to the Forest of Chapultepec for a fascinating visit of the impressive **Museum of Anthropology**, world famous and renowned as the principal source of information about the archeological and cultural composition of México and America. As one of the world's largest of its kind, the museum presents an impressive collection of artifacts and exhibitions that demonstrate the daily life of the Aztecs, which is the reason for our visit. Then proceed to the **Church of the Holy Family**. This Church contains the remains of **Blessed Padre Miguel Pro**, the famous martyr Priest of México whose death (documented in pictures) forced the government to allow the practice of Catholicism back out in the open. If time and traffic allows, drive by the monument to Benito Juarez, the Alameda Park and the historic and gorgeous 'Palacio de Bellas Artes' (Palace of Fine Arts) and arrive at Old México City. Here, we drive around the **Zócalo**, the fourth largest square in the world. It is located in the center of the old and once powerful Aztec Capital of **Tenochtitlán**, where ruins of its "Templo Mayor" (major temple) can still be observed. On one side of the square we can admire the "Palacio Nacional" (National Palace), where in addition to being México's current Presidential Offices, is also the place where Hernán Cortes established his first residence and offices. On the opposite side lies the monumental **Cathedral Metropolitana**, built with stones of the old Aztec temples. Enjoy an evening at leisure with dinner on your own. **(B, L)**



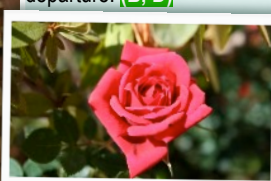
**Day 6: Thursday, September 19th: Coyoacán & Xochimilco.**

After breakfast, travel to **Coyoacán** where you'll visit the Church of **St. John the Baptist (Mass\* celebrated here)**. This Church contains the famous statue of the "**Divina Infanta Maria**" or **Divine Infant (Virgin) Mary**, a beautiful pious devotion of the Mexican people derived from a Nun, Sister Magdalena, from a request made by the Virgin Mary in a private apparition, while meditating on the Infant Jesus during the Feast of the Epiphany. **Xochimilco** is a complex of canals, chinampas (artificial floating islands built for Aztec nobility's agriculture) and lagoons known as the "**Mexican Venice**". Here, our group will enjoy a ride in a "**Trajinera**" (Mexican Gondola) decorated with flowers. Time allowing, we will see some of the sites not visited on Tuesday or we may visit the Church of Santiago in Tlatelolco, where St. Juan Diego was Baptized. **(B, D)**



**Day 7: Friday, September 20th: Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe.**

After the breakfast buffet, travel to one of the oldest churches in the Americas. The **Church of Santiago in Tlatelolco (St. James)**, built with the stones of the largest pyramid found at the Aztec economic center called Tlatelolco. It is in this same church where St. Juan Diego and his wife, Maria Lucia, were Baptized. The Baptismal Font has been conserved. The church is located in an area of Mexico called "Tres Culturas" (Three Cultures), because in it, one can find elements of the Pre-Columbian culture, the Hispanic European Culture, and the modern Mexican culture. Then return today for a full day visit to Guadalupe. Complete the tour of the Guadalupe complex with a guided visit to the remaining chapels, gardens and places of importance (as time allows). Climb the "**Cerrito de Tepeyac**" (Tepeyac Hill) in a Rosary procession until we reach the "**Capilla del Cerrito**" (Chapel of the Little Hill) that commemorates the place of the first apparition. **Mass\*** requested at the **Cerrito** or at **Indian Chapel** (original chapel at the Shrine of Guadalupe). After Mass, visit the **Old Basilica** where Our Lord is perpetually exposed in the Blessed Sacrament. The remainder of our visit is at your leisure for personal prayer and confessions. This evening, we will have the opportunity for Father to Bless all religious articles you may have obtained. We end this memorable day with a joyful **Farewell Dinner** remembering all the good times we shared as a new pilgrim family. Tonight, pack and prepare for our following day's departure. **(B, D)**



**Day 8: Saturday, September 21st: Adios Mexico, Hello USA!**

The last day commences as you pick up a breakfast bag and depart for Benito Juarez International Airport with plenty of time for check in and extra security. As your flight takes off, take one last look at a land filled with history and culture; a land that gained the love and admiration of our late Holy Father Saint John Paul II; a land where our Lady converted and continues to convert many, many people! **(B\*)**

*¡Adiós México! ¡Te quiero Mi Guadalupe!*

Upon arrival to the United States, you will be processed through US Homeland Security (Immigrations and Customs). Read "Tips for Flying Days" for more information **Welcome Home!**

# Terms & Conditions **MEXICO**

Purchaser and/or traveler of this tour (you) acknowledges that Landa Cleary Travel Company, Inc. (d.b.a. = doing business as Mater Dei Tours and Relevant Journeys) is acting as an independent intermediary (travel agent) between you and suppliers of goods and services, which are not directly supplied by Mater Dei Tours, such as air transportation, hotel accommodations, ground and sea transportations, tours, tour guides, escorts, etc. and shall not be responsible for actions or omissions on the part of such suppliers, which may result in any loss, damage, delay or injury to you or your travel companions or group members. Mater Dei Tours and any religious or private organization contracting its services shall not be responsible for any injuries, damages or losses caused to any traveler in connection with social or labor unrest, mechanical or construction difficulties, diseases, local laws, climatic conditions, war, terrorist activities or any other actions omissions, or conditions outside their control.

By embarking upon his/her travel, the traveler(s) voluntarily assumes all the risks, and is advised to obtain appropriate insurance coverage against them. Your booking shall constitute a consent to the above and engaging the company, acknowledges these conditions and agrees to hold the company blameless in making the arrangements on his/her behalf, and agrees that restitution or damages, if any are claimed, shall be sought directly from the suppliers.

**Deposits:** A deposit of \$500 per person is required to secure your space to Mater Dei Tours. Your deposits are used to cover and guarantee your space. **Deposits will be refunded in the event the tour does not meet the minimum quorum necessary to make the trip possible.** If you use a credit card as payment, you agree that if any cancellation penalties are due, Mater Dei Tours is authorized to charge the penalties to the credit card listed on the registration.

**Final Payments:** Full payment must be made no later than **100 days** prior to departure unless otherwise stated. Payments may be made by check, Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. If payment is not received as scheduled, your reservation may be automatically canceled and your deposit payment is forfeited. If you use a credit card as payment, for your convenience, you may opt to have Mater Dei Tours charge your balance to the same authorized credit card on the registration form by simply calling us with your verbal authorization.

**Cancellations:** All cancellations must be received in writing to our company prior to tour departure during normal business hours (9:00am to 5:00pm CST, Monday through Friday). All Cancellations are subject to the following per person penalties prior to departure:

100 days or before.....	\$500.00
99 to 90 days.....	25% of tour
89 to 70 days.....	50% of tour
69 to 50 days.....	75% of tour
49 to 0 days.....	100% of tour (No Refunds)

**Mater Dei Tours cannot refund independent purchases of Airfare or Travel Insurance Premiums.**

If you use a credit card as payment, you agree that if any cancellation penalties are due, Mater Dei Tours is authorized to charge the penalties to your credit card on record. Traveler agrees to forfeit their reserved space if payment is not made by the designated date. In the case of an approved refund, a 3% fee will be charged to cover merchant fees.

**For price, taxes, fees & deposit and balance information, please see registration sheet.**

**Registration Deadline:**

**June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**(space may sell out before deadline)**

**Tour Membership:** To ensure a positive experience, Mater Dei Tours reserves the right to reject any client (before or during the trip at the expense of the traveler) whose conduct is incompatible with the interest of the group. Mater Dei Tours is not responsible for lost persons and for the expenses incurred while being lost. Each traveler assumes responsibility for staying with the group.

**Travelers with Special Needs:** Passengers who require attention must advise the tour operator at the time of booking. A qualified and physically able companion must accompany travelers who need such assistance and must assume full responsibility for their well being. Coaches are not equipped with wheelchair accessible ramps, therefore all tour members must be able to mount 3 to 5 steps into the coach. **Participants should expect to walk at least 1 to 3 miles minimum in one day.** Walking surfaces may at times be uneven. Mater Dei Tours is not responsible for denial of service by any suppliers.

**Young Travelers:** Travelers who are less than 18 years old on the departure date must be accompanied by an adult and must share the adult's accommodations. If a child will be traveling with adults other than the parents or with only one parent, it is highly recommended that a notarized letter be written by the parents or non-traveling parent granting authorization to travel, including the dates of travel. We suggest that you also contact the appropriate consulate and airlines because they may have additional requirements.

**Roommate Assignments:** Mater Dei Tours will make every reasonable attempt to find you a roommate. However, this is not guaranteed. If no roommate is found by the registration deadline, the passenger will have the option to upgrade to a single room (if available) by paying the single occupancy or cancel altogether with a full refund. Mater Dei Tours cannot be held responsible if the roommate you were assigned to is not agreeable to you. If you desire to get your own room, you will be responsible for all the financial consequences of such action, including but not limited to, covering the single occupancy costs of both you and your ex-roommate.

**Air Transportation:** We have selected airlines that are most suitable with land arrangements. All fares are subject to government approval and are subject to change without notice. Airfares are guaranteed once they have been paid in full and ticketed. Name changes required after tickets have been issued are subject to cancellation and re-ticketing at a higher fare and subject to change fees. Some airlines do not allow you to earn, and/or upgrade with frequent flier miles for group bookings.

**Airline Seating:** Passengers who require specific seating due to medical conditions are advised to obtain Doctor's Orders so the airlines may have proof of the condition and may accommodate the order. In addition to making the request through our company, please bring the doctor's note to the ticket counter. Passengers who desire a specific non-medical related seat are requested to contact the airline directly, approximately 30 days prior to departure for preferred seating. Group seating is under control of the airline and Mater Dei Tours can only pass on your requests.

**Voluntary changes to itinerary:** Independent voluntary changes to an individual passenger's itinerary are usually not permitted by most of our tour suppliers. Some exceptions may be granted in a case-by-case basis. All change requests must be made prior to 45 days before departure. If passenger purchased a land only package, they are free to plan their own itinerary before or after the trip (read Land Only bookings for restrictions).

**Not Included:** All items of a personal nature (room service, beverages, telephone charges, laundry, etc) and meals not specified on the tour itinerary are not included and must be paid by the passenger.

**Accommodations and Itinerary:** Land arrangements are provided as described in the tour program. The tour company reserves the right to change or substitute (1) hotels for accommodations in similar categories (2) or features of the itinerary in order to accommodate changes in the schedule.

**Meals:** Meals are provided as specified in the tour program. If you require special meals due to medical dietary restrictions, we must receive written details of your requirements at the time of booking. We cannot guarantee that each and every vendor will honor your requested diet, but every effort will be made to report and accommodate these requests. No weight loss plans or special nutrition diets can be accommodated.

**Passports:** Obtaining a passport is the sole responsibility of the passenger. Passports must be current and valid beyond the dates of travel. **Your airline ticket name must match your passport name or you may be denied boarding the airplane.** Passengers who are denied boarding due to discrepancies between ticket and passport names or because of expired passports accept full responsibility and are subject to the cancellation terms of the tour. Some countries, such as Israel, require that your passport expiration be 6 months beyond your travel dates. **We recommend that you apply for your passports (if needed) no later than 4 months before departure.**

**Tips:** Gratuities for baggage, hotel and restaurants detailed in the itinerary are included. **Gratuities for Tour Guide and Motor-coach Driver are NOT included** (unless otherwise stated in the brochure). Please read your "Essential Reading Material" (provided with your travel documents) for recommendations on tipping Please budget accordingly.

**Smoking:** Smoking is not allowed on the motor-coach but frequent stops are made throughout the day.

**Travel Health:** This pilgrimage is being operated under the premise that it is safe to travel under the current health protocols. If governmental authorities and/or our tour vendors, declare that it is no longer safe to travel because of Covid-19 (or any other sickness), Mater Dei will need to cancel the pilgrimage. If all our vendors cancel their services, Mater Dei will issue a full refund to all. If a passenger cancels because of fear of Covid-19 (or any other sickness), but authorities still declare that it is safe to travel as long as people practice the appropriate advice to keep proper hygiene to avoid contamination, the passenger shall be assessed the appropriate cancellation penalty detailed in the first column. Please consider bringing a face mask (may be required by some airlines and/or foreign governments), especially if you are coughing and sneezing. If you are sick with Covid-19 or any other sickness, please stay home.

**Total Group Cancellation:** If it becomes necessary to cancel an entire tour prior to departure, Mater Dei Tours will offer the next available date or will make a full refund of money paid as soon as all our vendors refund us your money. Mater Dei Tours cannot accept responsibility for any additional costs, fees or cancellation penalties relating to any independent non-refundable purchases (personal airfares, travel insurance, etc.). If you use a credit card as payment, traveler agrees to forfeit 3% of all credit card charges to cover merchant fees absorbed by Mater Dei.

**Land Only Bookings:** Passenger(s) who desire to book their own airfare do at their own risk. Land only passengers are responsible for connecting with the group at the hotel. Passenger(s) accept all responsibility for costs incurred due to misconnections with the group. Mater Dei Tours cannot accept responsibility for any additional costs or fees related to such a booking or for any cancellation penalties due to independent non-refundable airfare (even if Mater Dei Tours assisted with this booking).

**Luggage:** Handling of one piece of luggage per person at hotels is usually included in the cost of this tour wherever hotel luggage service is offered (some hotels do not have bell captains). Train tickets do not include portage. Luggage is carried at owner's risk throughout the tour (insurance suggested). Carry-on and hand baggage and small articles such as coats, umbrellas or cameras are entirely in the care of the passenger. Size and weight limitations for carry-on and checked baggage vary from airline to airline and even according to destination, and are becoming more restrictive. Airlines with domestic connections reserve the right to charge airline baggage fees. Some international flights are now charging airline baggage fees. Check your final documents for details of acceptable luggage fees, dimensions and weight allowed on your tour. **All baggage and personal effects are at all times and in all circumstances at the risk of the passenger. Baggage insurance is recommended** (see Travel insurance section below).

**Validity:** Rates in this brochure are valid for the travel period stated on the brochure, and are quoted on a per person sharing twin/double room basis. All prices are shown in U.S. Dollars and are calculated on currency rates and fares existing on the day the brochure was made. Mater Dei Tours reserves the right to alter prices at any time prior to departure and without prior notice due to currency exchange rates, taxes, fees or fuel surcharges increases.

Mater Dei Tours and all dba's are not responsible for misprints on the brochures as well as in [materdeitours.com](http://materdeitours.com) or any of our websites. Every effort is made to ensure brochure accuracy at the time of going to press; however, Mater Dei Tours cannot be held responsible for printing or typographical errors, or errors arising from unforeseen circumstances. In the case of computer or human billing error we reserve the right to re-invoice passengers with correct billing.

**Travel Insurance:** Mater Dei Tours recommends travel insurance for your travel investment. You may purchase this insurance independently or select the travel insurance plan offered when you register, by simply checking off the optional insurance box.

Intercontinental airline transportation provided by:

**T.B.A.**



TEL. 608-440-3700

Website: [www.materdeitours.com](http://www.materdeitours.com)

E-mail: [questions@materdeitours.com](mailto:questions@materdeitours.com)