

Medjugorje Pilgrimage

August 2023



5 Stones

1. Prayer from the heart: Rosary
2. Eucharist
3. Holy Bible
4. Fasting
5. Monthly Confession

Table of Contents

Pre-trip Checklist	2
Packing List	3
Travel Tips	4
Maps	5
Money	6
Power	8
Phones	8
A Few Things to see & do	9
Apparition Hill	
Cross Mountain	
St. James	
Statue of the Risen Christ	
Cenacolo Community	
Shops	
Food	



Pre-trip Checklist

- ☐ Passport (must be valid 6 months after trip - until Oct, 2023)
- ☐ Enroll in STEP (step.state.gov/step) - Optional
- ☐ Provide "Advance Passenger Info" verify seats / flight details
- ☐ Get lots of sleep several nights before the trip!
- ☐ Spiritual Preparation (do what you are called to do)
 - ☐ _____ (Eg. Daily Mass, Rosary, Fast, Confession, Bible, Novena)
- ☐ Notify credit card companies + bank (debit card)
 - ☐ Tell them each country you will visit (depending on your flights: Germany, France, Croatia, **Bosnia & Herzegovina**)
 - ☐ Ask: Will I be charged foreign transaction fees?
 - ☐ Ask: What exchange rate will I get?
- ☐ Take pictures of documents; *Save pictures online or with family*
 - ☐ Passport
 - ☐ Driver's license
 - ☐ Credit cards
 - ☐ Health cards
- ☐ Pack (see separate packing list)
- ☐ Install phone apps
 - ☐ Messaging App(s) — **WhatsApp**, twitter, facebook messenger, Google Voice, etc.
 - ☐ **iBreviary** (for daily Mass readings, and other prayers)
 - ☐ Google Translate (install languages: Croatian, maybe Spanish, Italian, German)
 - ☐ Google Maps w/ ***Offline Maps*** for Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - ☐ Airline App; Login to make sure you have access
 - ☐ Credit Card & Bank Apps; Login to check also
- ☐ Arrangements while you are gone (mail, pets, plants, etc.)
- ☐ Prepare house if nobody will be home (heat / locks / lights / etc)
- ☐ Remove stuff from wallet/purse that you won't need on the trip
- ☐ Check-in the 24hrs early (airline website or airline phone app)

Packing List

Packing less means less to carry/worry about. You won't need much. Laundry can be done at the laundromat in Medjugorje. Check the weather for Medjugorje (sometimes spelled Međugorje), or Čitluk, Bosnia & Herzegovina (**Average August high: 88°F, low: 64°F**). Below is a recommended list, and a link to a bigger list (that you should not need 😊).

Check your airline carry-on / checked bag size limits. Most allow 1 Carry-on (overhead), 1 Personal Item (under seat), and sometimes free checked bags. An example of size limits (Turkish Airlines):

- **Carry-on Size:** 55cm x 40cm x 23cm (about 21.5" x 15.7" x 9") ← **17.5 lbs**
- **Personal Item Size:** 40cm x 30cm x 15cm (about 15.7" x 11.8" x 6")
- **Checked Bag:** 158cm (L + W + H) (about 62") ← **50 lbs**

Do not use luggage w/ batteries.

- ☐ Travel paperwork (this doc, tickets, **passport**, itinerary, insurance/medical documents, etc.)
- ☐ About 5-7 Shirts
- ☐ Socks & underwear
- ☐ 3-7 pairs of shorts / pants / dresses
- ☐ Hat (can buy hat there, good for shade), belt
- ☐ Shoes - comfortable for hiking on rocks
- ☐ Toiletries (travel-size liquids!)
 - ☐ Toothpaste & toothbrush
 - ☐ Shaver
 - ☐ Deodorant
 - ☐ _____
 - ☐ _____
- ☐ Reading Glasses, Sun Glasses
- ☐ Cell phone + charging cable (wifi is widely available, travel sim card available but you probably won't need it)
- ☐ Power Adapter (optional) - Type F recommended, perhaps w/ USB plug for your phone
- ☐ Tech stuff, cords, chargers (headphones for plane, iPad, camera, memory cards, etc.)
- ☐ **Portable FM radio w/ earphones or headphones (94.3 FM for English)**
- ☐ Vitamins (C, D3, Zinc Sulfate, etc.), Medications (bring prescriptions)
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer / Wipes
- ☐ Money (for gifts, extra food, taxis, etc) — ATMs will be available, you don't need to bring much.
- ☐ Credit Cards + ATM card (**know & test your PIN**)
- ☐ Other ideas: <https://goo.gl/zXkCHM>

Travel Tips

Below are some travel tips. It assumes you've done the pre-trip checklist and have packed already.

Before your trip

- Know your itinerary. Helps you be at the right place at the right time.
- Get lots of sleep for a few nights leading up to the trip.
- Be Early. Especially for planes, they won't wait for you.
 - **Check-in closes about 1 hr before departure — arrive at airport 3 hours early.**
- Check-in as soon as possible (**24 hr before flight**) for best seats.
- If you check a bag, assume it will be lost... pack everything you **NEED** in your carry-on.
- Pack for TSA inspection:
 - Put liquids in 1 qt ziplock (max 3.4 oz including bug repellent / sunscreen, 1 ziplock / person). Pack w/ easy access.
 - Avoid prohibited items (no aerosols, batteries greater than 100WH, Galaxy Note 7, Walking Sticks, see TSA list)

Airport & plane flight

- Prep for security. Before the TSA checkpoint:
 - Put everything you are holding in your carry-on (belt, wallet, money, phone, hat, watch, jacket).
 - Hold your ID and ticket.
 - Unless told otherwise, place laptops, iPads separately through X-ray machine (in their own bin).
 - Read the signs and ask questions if you're not sure.
 - Don't joke about having something you shouldn't, etc. They don't have a sense of humor.
- If you are late, show ticket and ask to go to the front of the line.
- Buy food / drinks AFTER security, but BEFORE the plane (won't count as another carry-on).
 - Extra food on the airplane is limited and expensive; most flights include meals.
- Use airport restroom (nicer than the plane).
- Don't like your seats? Doesn't hurt to ask for a new one at the counter. Be nice and smile... they get yelled at a lot. 😞
- Board early. Overhead space fills up fast, if you plan to use this space board as early as possible.
- Remember to disable roaming (better yet, all cellular) on your phone, unless it's ok on your plan.
- Turn ON "airplane mode" while flying, otherwise your battery may drain *fast*.
- Noise canceling headphones. If you have them, they are amazing and make the trip much better.
- Turn off overhead air when you first sit down (exhaust blows in when the plane backs from gate).
- Many planes have USB and/or power outlets — charge your devices whenever you can.
- Sleep as much as you can. **Stand up and walk around** when you're awake on long flights.
- Drink water 💧, the altitude and the filtered air will dehydrate you. Helps jet leg.
- Know what's next. Especially if your plane is late, know what to do *before* you land.

Passport Control & Customs

When arriving in a country, typically your passport is verified and you must go through customs.

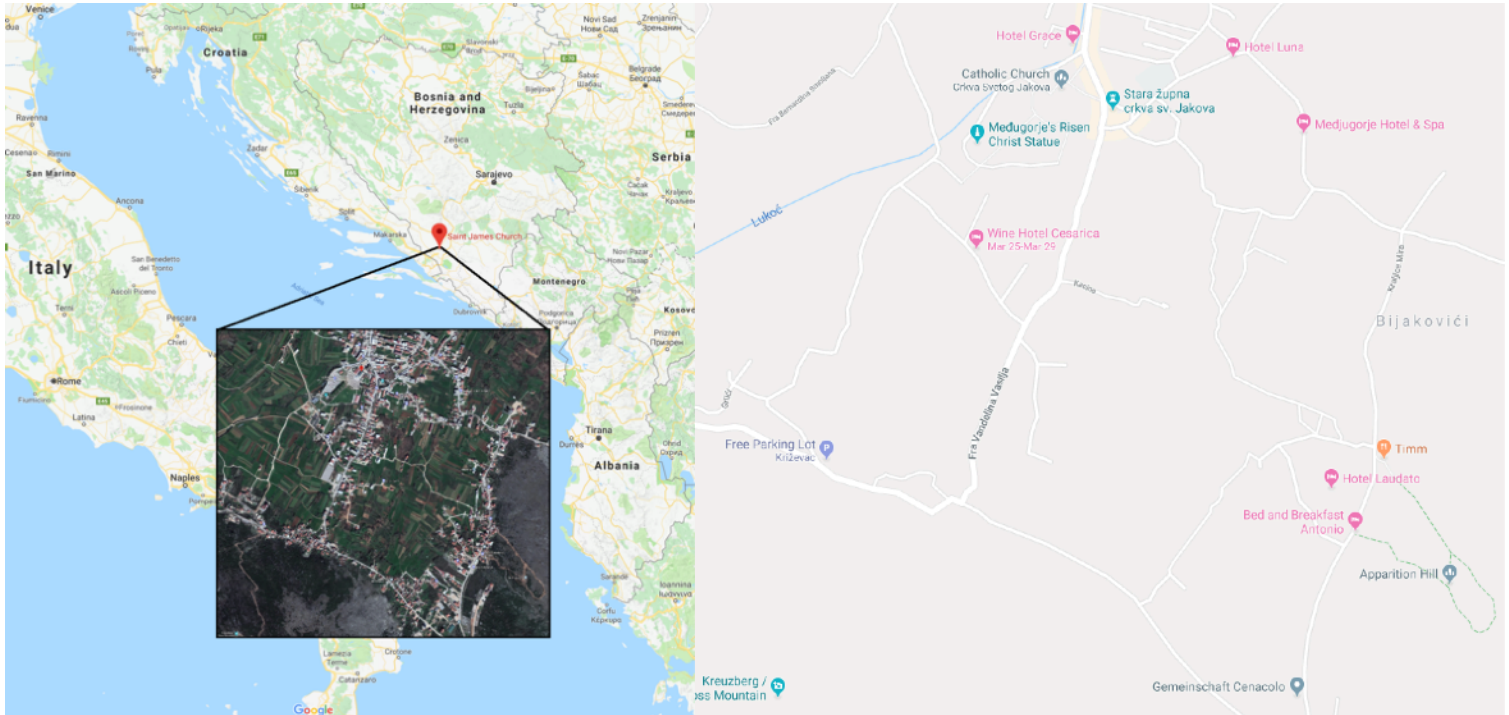
- Families should go through customs together. 1 person present all documents (passports ready).
- Don't joke about having something you shouldn't, etc. They don't have a sense of humor.
- Fill out paperwork (if any) before you get off plane, or as soon as you get it.

Arriving

- Don't forget your bags! International stops require you claim bags *before* customs.
- CONNECT TO AIRPORT WIFI (cellular should probably be off) — Messages are probably waiting for you... tell others about group messages because they probably forgot to connect.
- On connecting flights, Visit your gate before you assume you have extra time. Timezones are confusing!

Maps

- Medjugorje is across the Adriatic Sea from Italy.
- Pansion Dragicevic is near the base of Apparition Hill.
- St. James is about a 15 min walk, or a few minutes by car.



Cijene TAXI usluga

Location	ONE DIRECTION	TWO DIRECTIONS
Split	130,0 €	200,0 €
Dubrovnik	130,0 €	200,0 €
Sarajevo	130,0 €	200,0 €
Makarska	70,0 €	120,0 €
Mostar	40,0 €	60,0 €
Kravica	20,0 €	40,0 €



Money

When should I exchange money?

There is no need to exchange money before you leave home. Doing so will likely result in a high exchange rate (expensive). Exchanging money at the airport is also expensive.

So what to do? I recommend you get money, during your trip from ATM's. Alternatively, you can go to a bank and exchange money — although if you have a bank card, an ATM is much more convenient. (See "How do I use foreign ATMs" below)

Can I use a Credit Card?

Sometimes. Some of the merchants in Medjugorje only accept cash. Some places will accept credit cards (rental cars, hotels, airports, some shops & restaurants, etc.)

Be sure to let your credit card company / bank know that you are on a trip, or they may decline your purchases. Also know which of your cards charge foreign transaction fees (very expensive in some cases). 3 cards that have no fees are: Citi Costco Visa, Amazon Rewards Visa, Apple Card. They also have varying travel benefits (like insurance). Check your cards to avoid unpleasant surprises. Some debit cards may also charge international fees, be sure to check with your bank.

How do I use foreign ATMs?

There will be ATMs throughout our trip (airports and even next to the St. James in Medjugorje). You can use them as normal, except you should **NOT** choose their "guaranteed" rate — this adds a large additional fee. Instead, choose to accept the exchange rate your bank will charge you. Sometimes this is phrased: "Would you like to withdraw in USD or Marks?" — **choose the local currency**. ATMs will also charge an access fee \$2 - \$5, it's best to withdraw larger amounts in fewer transactions.

What will I need cash for?

- Gifts and Souvenirs
- Extra food or snacks (the house serves 2 meals per day, breakfast and an early dinner)
- Donations at Mass
- Taxis
- Optional Tips
- Any fees for additional activities

It's good to have some emergency money too, perhaps \$200 per person.

What else do I need to pay?

Login at VisitQueenOfPeace.com, click the circle in the top-right, then click "Balance".

Money

Bosnia-Herzegovina Convertible Mark (BAM or KM)

- 1 BAM = \$0.57
- 1 USD = 1.74 BAM



Euro (EUR) - €

- 1 EUR = \$1.12
- 1 USD = 0.89 €



Power

Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina (Optional, some adapters available at the house)

Type F (grounded) or Type C (ungrounded)
230V, 50Hz

www.amazon.com/dp/B079RW9WWC

Type F



Type C



Phones

Roaming charges can be expensive, especially in Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina. You should check with your phone provider before you leave to be sure you understand the fees. If you want to be safe, you can swap your sim card for a "prepaid sim" which turns your phone into a local phone (with a local phone number) for voice, text, and/or data. (Not recommended for most.)

WiFi is widely available (recommended). So, if you turn off cellular service and enable wifi, you will be able to use your phone for everything except SMS (text messages) and phone calls. Messaging apps work fine, *including voice and video calling apps*. See "Pre-trip Checklist" for suggested apps. **Most people will not need cell service.**

Croatia

expatincroatia.com/croatia-mobile-phone-providers

Bosnia & Herzegovina

BH Telecom — I found one in Mostar
bhtelecom.ba/en/tourist-2/tourist-offer/



A Few Things to see & do

Apparition Hill

- The **Blue Cross** is at the base (there is actually an old and a "new" blue cross). This is where Mirjana used to receive her monthly apparitions.
- The **Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries** have stations in a loop up on Apparition Hill.
- Near the top, there's a **statue of Our Lady** marking the place where she first appeared in 1981.



Cross Mountain


- More challenging hike.
- There are stops along the hike to stop and pray each of the **stations of the cross**.
- There's a **Cross** at the top, built to commemorate the 1900th anniversary of Jesus's passion.



St. James

- Attend Mass
- Confession
- Adoration
- Veneration of the Cross
- Visit the statues of Mary
- Occasional special talks / events



PRAYER PROGRAM (In brackets: Summer Time)		
Morning	Holy Mass in various languages	
Afternoon	Silent Adoration in the Adoration Chapel	
Evening Prayer Program and Confession		5 (6) - 8 (9) pm
5 (6) pm		Rosary
6 (7) pm		Holy Mass
7 (8) - 8 (9) pm	Blessings of the religious articles, Prayer for healing of body and soul, Rosary	
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament		
Tuesday and Saturday		9 (10) - 10 (11) pm
Thursday after Evening Mass		7 (8) - 8 (9) pm
Veneration of the Cross		
Friday after Evening Mass		7 (8) - 8 (9) pm
Way of the Cross on Cross Mountain		
		Friday 2 (4) pm
Rosary on Apparition Hill		
		Sunday 2 (4) pm



MONDAY

7:30am - Holy Mass in Croatian
 10am - **English Holy Mass**
 During the Day - Possible Talks from Local Priests and/or Visionaries
 Afternoon - Adoration in the Adoration Chapel

 6 - 9pm - Evening Prayer Program and Confession
 6pm - Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries
 7pm - **Holy Mass**
 8pm - Blessings of objects, Prayer for health of soul and body, Glorious Mysteries

TUESDAY

7:30am - Holy Mass in Croatian
 10am - **English Holy Mass**
 During the Day - Possible Talks from Local Priests and/or Visionaries
 Afternoon - Adoration in the Adoration Chapel

 6 - 9pm - Evening Prayer Program and Confession
 6pm - Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries
 7pm - Holy Mass & Blessings of objects, Prayer for health of soul and body, Glorious Mysteries
 8pm - **Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament**

WEDNESDAY

7:30am - Holy Mass in Croatian
 10am - **English Holy Mass**
 During the Day - Possible Talks from Local Priests and/or Visionaries
 Afternoon - Adoration in the Adoration Chapel

 6 - 9pm - Evening Prayer Program and Confession
 6pm - Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries
 7pm - **Holy Mass**
 8pm - Blessings of objects, Prayer for health of soul and body, Glorious Mysteries

THURSDAY

7:30am - Holy Mass in Croatian
 10am - **English Holy Mass**
 During the Day - Possible Talks from Local Priests and/or Visionaries
 Afternoon - Adoration in the Adoration Chapel

 6 - 9pm - Evening Prayer Program and Confession
 6pm - Joyful and Luminous mysteries.
 7pm - Holy Mass, then Blessings of objects
 8pm - **Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament**

FRIDAY

7:30am - Holy Mass in Croatian
 10am - **English Holy Mass**
 During the Day - Possible Talks from Local Priests and/or Visionaries
 Afternoon - Adoration in the Adoration Chapel
 2pm - Way of the Cross ON Mount Križevac

 6 - 9pm - Evening Prayer Program and Confession
 6pm - Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries
 7pm - **Holy Mass**, then Blessings of objects
 88pm - Veneration of the Holy Cross

SATURDAY

7:30am - Holy Mass in Croatian
 10am - **English Holy Mass**
 During the Day - Possible Talks from Local Priests and/or Visionaries
 Afternoon - Adoration in the Adoration Chapel

 6 - 9pm - Evening Prayer Program and Confession
 6pm - Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries
 7pm - **Holy Mass** & Blessings of objects, Prayer for health of soul and body, Glorious Mysteries
 8pm - **Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament**

SUNDAYS AND FEAST DAYS

8, 11am, 6pm - Holy Mass in Croatian
 12pm - **English Holy Mass**
 Afternoon - Adoration in the Adoration Chapel
 2pm - Rosary on Apparition Hill

 6 - 9pm - Evening Prayer Program and Confession
 6pm - Joyful and Sorrowful Mysteries
 7pm - **Holy Mass**
 8pm - Blessings of objects, Prayer for health of soul and body, Glorious Mysteries

Statue of the Risen Christ

- This statue sometimes produces drops from one or both knees.
- There's a path leading to the statue which has stations to pray the **Luminous Mysteries**.
- Encircling the Statue of the Risen Christ are the Stations of the Cross.

Cenacolo Community

- Community to help young people overcome addictions through faith, prayer, work, and the virtue of charity.
- medjugorjeca.org/pilgrimage-itinerary/cenacolo-community/

Shops

There are many shops to buy souvenirs throughout Medjugorje.



Most of our meals will be served at the Pansion (breakfast & dinner). However, you may want to explore the various restaurants for lunch or a late-night snack / drink. The meals are inexpensive. Below are a couple restaurants (Viktor's and Sweets Crepe Cafe) that Kevin and I visited in 2018.

A person wearing a red shirt is serving a large, round, thick-crust pizza on a checkered tablecloth. The pizza is topped with meat and cheese. A white plate and a glass are also on the table.