

TRAVEL

Yugoslavia and Medjugorje — A very likely place

By: Norrine E. Waller, CTC
Preferred Travel Service, Inc.

Since June, 1981, over fifteen million people have come to Medjugorje.

They have come from many nations, different religious faiths, all age levels, espouse various political and social ideologies. The reason for their journeys are as different as their backgrounds...faith, healing, renewal, hope...even curiosity.

The plain of Medjugorje is surrounded by beautiful hills and mountains.

Its Yougoslav name means "Mid Hills - Between the Mountains". Two mountains dominate the area—Mount Krizevac, or the "Hill of the Cross", and Mount Podbrdo, the smaller of the two, termed "The Hill of the Apparitions". It is on this particular hill that, on June 24th, 1981, the Madonna, the Blessed Mother of Jesus, in the Croation language, the "Gospa," is reported to have first appeared to six children of the area. That this tiny hamlet, surrounded by vineyards, wheat and tobacco fields of poor farmers, amid the tinkling bells of goats and the ruffle-coated sheep, should be the scene of such an important happening may strike one as a strange situation. That the Mother of God, would choose to speak to one so far removed from the educational, social, and political sphere of world influence, could raise question.

I can best describe the reality of Medjugorje these days as a scene from the days of early christianity...where people go about their daily works, stopping to join in thoughtful prayer with one another, joyful with the love of God, and dedicated to the desire to bring others to this wonderful, almost overwhelming sense of peace.

An unlikely place for the Mother of God to appear...I think not. The simplicity and great faith,

already the fiber of the people of Medjugorje, plus their quiet isolation from the trivia of the world make them very likely candidates. Pilgrims to Medjugorje, make this not a place to stay, but a place along the way...a place where tremendous conversions are happening.

We've already had ten successful pilgrimages to Medjugorje and are currently accepting reservations for our second Christmas pilgrimage, the week of December 4th through December 13th. This very special trip will be during the feast of the Immaculate Conception, escorted by Fr. Albert Shamon. We also have a complete schedule of Medjugorje pilgrimages planned throughout 1990. For more information on

Medjugorje as well as other special group trips planned for 1990, Norrine Waller, Certified Travel Counselor, and her staff invite you to call today: 716-624-3110.



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