

The MAGI Travelogue

Start your journey here

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter, where you will find destination highlights, featured tours, and travel news!

2025 Jubilee Year of Hope

Pilgrims from around the world will travel to Rome next year to celebrate the Jubilee Year, a special year of grace and pilgrimage typically held every 25 years. Also known as a Holy Year, Jubilees have biblical roots and provide the faithful with an opportunity to re-establish relationships with each other and with God.

The theme for 2025 is “Pilgrims of Hope.” Pope Francis put an emphasis on the need for hope following the pandemic and now during multiple wars. In announcing the Jubilee Year, he stated “we must fan the flame of hope that has been given us” and declared the year will be “marked by the hope that does not fade, our hope in God.”



The Jubilee will officially begin this Christmas Eve with the opening of the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica—which is only opened during Jubilee years—followed by the other three major papal basilicas in Rome: St. John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls. Pilgrims who walk through the Holy Door can obtain the Jubilee indulgence.

Magi Travel has numerous Jubilee pilgrimages to Italy next year (see links below), with others still being planned. Each group will attend a Papal Audience, experience a private after-hours tour of the Vatican Museums & Sistine Chapel without the crowds, and much more.

- [February 17-27, 2025](#) (with Fr. James Peterson)
- [March 10-20, 2025](#) (with Fr. Louie Floeder & Fr. John Powers)
- [April 28 - May 8, 2025](#) (with Fr. John Marshall)
- [September 15-25, 2025](#) (with Fr. Paul Treacy)
- [October 5-16, 2025](#) (with Fr. Peter Williams)
- [October 19-30, 2025](#) (with Fr. Bill Murtaugh & Scott Brazil)
- [November 2-13, 2025](#) (with Fr. Sam Gilbertson & Fr. Sean Mulcare)
- [November 10-20, 2025](#) (with Fr. Anthony Craig)



The Early Days of Magi Travel



Should I Buy Travel Insurance?

In 1983, Magi Travel was started by me, John Brady, as a favor to my Pastor, Fr. Ambrose Mahon, at St Patrick's parish in Edina, Minnesota. Fr. Mahon wanted to do a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land and I offered to operate it for the them. He also created the name, Magi Travel. He felt it was perfect for the Holy Land.

We had 84 pilgrims on that tour, and the cost was \$1,700, including airfare, 5-star hotels, and most meals. In 1984, five additional priests led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and Magi Travel officially became a business.

We started before computers, cell phones, internet and online registration. It was basically paper registration forms, stamps, and envelopes. It is hard to imagine operating like that these days!

Our mission has stayed constant. Today we operate numerous tours a year to many different areas of the world with pilgrims from more than 20 states. We strive to offer only the best custom tours for all of our groups and individuals. Thank all of you for joining us on these tours over the years!



Absolutely! Purchasing travel insurance can provide invaluable peace of mind, especially considering the potential risks and uncertainties that can arise during travel.

1. **Trip Cancellation/Interruption:** Travel plans can be disrupted due to various reasons such as illness or natural disasters. Travel insurance can reimburse you for non-refundable trip costs if you need to cancel or cut your trip short.
2. **Medical Emergencies:** Health issues can occur anywhere, and medical care abroad can be expensive. Many health insurance plans based in the United States may have limited coverage or no coverage at all for medical expenses incurred overseas. Travel insurance typically covers medical expenses, including hospitalizations, doctor visits, and medications, ensuring you receive necessary treatment without worrying about costs.
3. **Lost or Stolen Belongings:** Baggage loss or theft is another common issue travelers face. Travel insurance can reimburse you for lost or stolen belongings, helping you replace essential items.
4. **Travel Delays:** Delays happen due to weather, mechanical issues, or other reasons. Travel insurance often includes coverage for additional expenses incurred due to delays, such as accommodation and meals.
5. **Emergency Evacuation:** In cases of serious illness or injury requiring evacuation to a medical facility or back home, travel insurance can cover the high costs associated with emergency transportation.

While travel insurance adds to the overall cost of your trip, the benefits and peace of mind it offers far outweigh the upfront expense. It ensures that even if something unexpected happens, you are financially protected and have access to 24-hour assistance so you can continue enjoying your travels without the stress. Therefore, investing in travel insurance is often considered a wise decision, even if it means adjusting your budget slightly to accommodate it.



European Christmas Market Cruises

The tradition of Christmas Markets in Europe is like nothing you will find here in America. Full of ambiance and holiday cheer, these enchanting markets feature local traditions and customs as communities prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Beginning next year, we are excited to launch a new offering that brings groups to experience the magic of the Christmas season in Europe. Partnering with our preferred river cruise company, AmaWaterways, there is not a more efficient and comfortable way of seeing some of world's most timeless markets than a river cruise. Passengers are treated to Ama's five-star quality while sailing aboard an elegantly decorated ship and enjoying festive onboard traditions, including an exquisite holiday feast with all the trimmings.

During the included excursions, see Europe at its most joyful time of year with twinkling lights, nativity scenes, live music and Christmas decor galore. Sip hot mulled wine, spiced cider and cocoa. Savor gingerbread, grilled sausages, traditional Christmas cookies and other local specialties. Shop for truly unique and handmade gifts for friends and family, purchasing items directly from the people who made them—hand-carved wooden ornaments, Christmas decorations, woolen goods, toys, and consumable gifts like chocolates, jams and liqueurs.

Cruising along the Rhine River, see Christmas traditions in four different countries. In Strasbourg, stroll France's oldest Christmas market and admire its famous Christmas tree towering nearly 100 feet high as carols are sung on the cathedral's front steps. Explore the canal-laden city of Amsterdam beaming with lights. In Cologne, Germany, wander the sea of red-covered stalls and lights of the Cathedral Christmas Market, located in front of its famous Gothic cathedral. In Basel, Switzerland, marvel at one of the most beautiful Christmas markets.

[See a glimpse of the markets here.](#)

Our first two groups getting in the Christmas spirit will be [November 28 - December 8, 2025](#) with Fr. Tom Fangman and [December 5-15, 2025](#) with Fr. Steve Binsfeld.

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