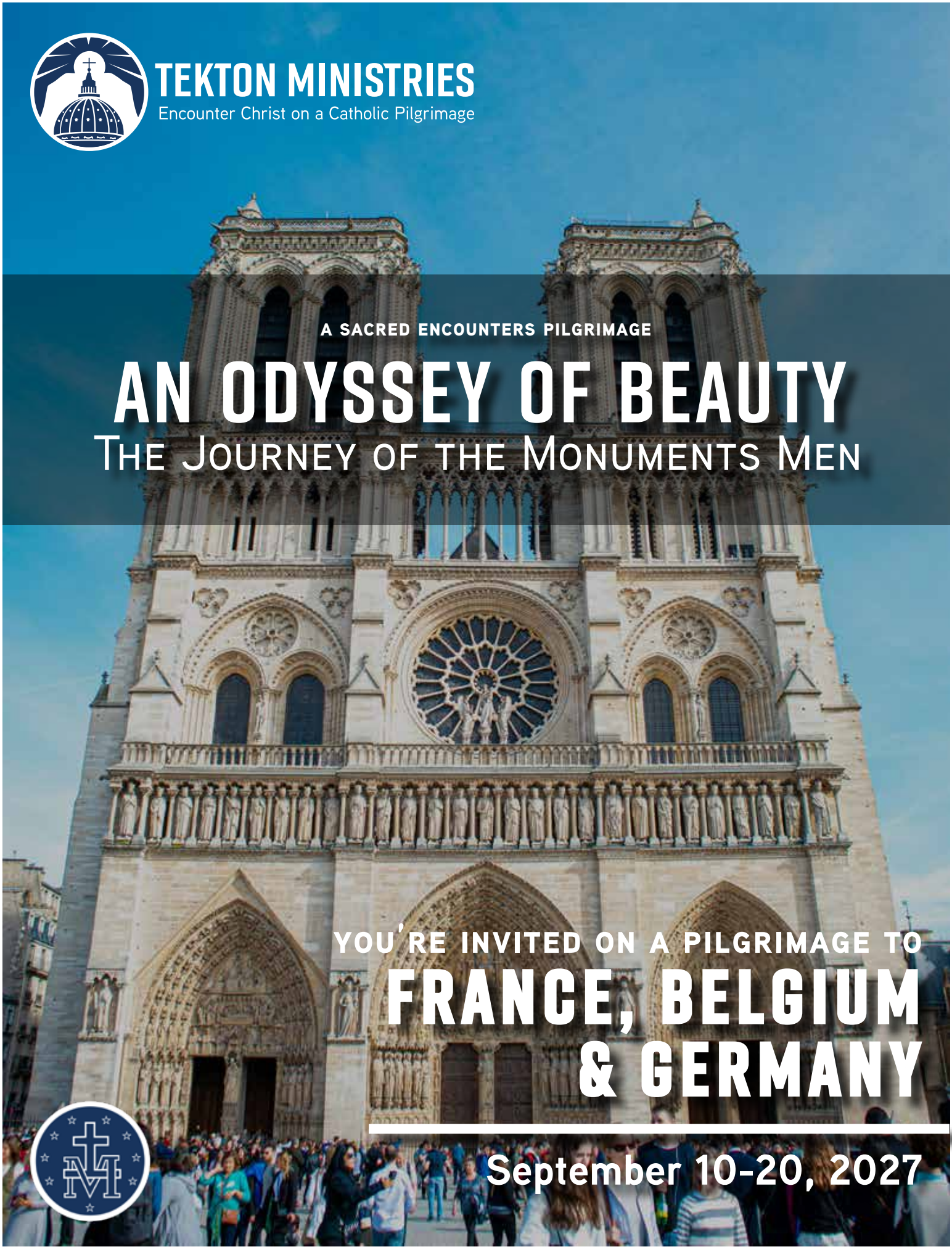


TEKTON MINISTRIES
Encounter Christ on a Catholic Pilgrimage

A SACRED ENCOUNTERS PILGRIMAGE

AN ODYSSEY OF BEAUTY

The Journey of the Monuments Men

YOU'RE INVITED ON A PILGRIMAGE TO

FRANCE, BELGIUM & GERMANY

September 10-20, 2027

A TRULY CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGE

How can people of faith shine a light upon a world foraging for answers in darkness? Through the centuries, an answer from the Catholic Church lies in Beauty. By raising up, nourishing and unleashing the creative genius of some of the greatest artists, writers, and musicians the world has ever seen, today we have these millennial treasures to enchant, uplift and inspire.

Such is the vision of Sacred Encounters: The Journey of the Monuments Men, 2027, offered by Tekton Ministries, a leader in developing Catholic pilgrimages all over the world for more than 25 years. This 'Pilgrimage of Sojourn of the Soul' will not just touch your heart, but also illuminate how God shares the Divine love through the beauty, landscape, customs and cultures of historic European lands. By exploring the rich palette of sacred sites and stories, cathedrals and art, and the heroic preservation of our cultural heritage, pilgrims will leave with a deeper faith, profound sense of gratitude, and a transforming resolve to bring these treasures into your homes, churches and community.

- **Day 1 – Friday, September 10**
  Depart USA
  In flight to Paris Airport (or for early arrivals, sightseeing in the area).

- **Day 2 – Saturday, September 11**
  Paris: Orientation and Welcome
  Our pilgrimage kicks off with a welcome lunch and orientation (please plan to land in Paris with plenty of time to clear customs before meeting up), followed by a tour of the **Musee d'Orsay** to view a special exhibit on paintings that were recovered by the Monuments Men but whose ownership was never verified. This visit will help frame our first hosted **Charcuterie and Conversation**, when we reflect on various questions of the Paris art community and the Nazi occupation. *(L, D) Overnight Paris*



- **Day 3 – Sunday, September 12**
  Paris: Sacred Sites and Saintly Service
  No visit to Paris would be complete without seeing the **Notre Dame Cathedral**. As pilgrims we not only witness a 'new' Notre-Dame, we stand on the threshold of a new horizon. Like the Monuments Men, we ask what will we pass on to future generations after the next fire, revolution or war. Ruins of stone and glass and a faith forgotten, or restored grandeur to rekindle a new fire burning within? Our Lady's glorious Gothic presence suggests there is something beautiful and mysterious and unknowable at the center of it all. After attending Gregorian Mass and learning of Notre Dame's connection to WWII and the Monuments Men, we will gather in the Latin Quarter for a Parisian Brunch. Following, we will tour the **Jeu de Paume**. This diminutive museum was key to the story of the Monuments Men. Over 20,000 works of art were brought here to be cataloged, photographed, and prepared for shipment to Germany. Yet it was also from within these walls of organized evil where a brave curator smuggled out the shipment records which assisted the Monuments Men to recover and restore the art to its original owners. Pilgrims will have the rest of the day free to explore other gems of Paris.
  (Brunch) Overnight Paris



- **Day 4 – Monday, September 13**
  Amiens to Bruges: Was it Worth It?
  Our odyssey of exploration begins in the massive gothic **Cathedral of Amiens**. Monuments Men had gathered maps and advised Allied Air Force commanders to avoid targeting the cathedral, which had the further protection of strategically-placed sand bags. In the afternoon we will visit the **Church of Our Lady** in Bruges to witness one of the most storied outcomes of the Monuments Men: the theft, discovery and recovery of Michelangelo's **Bruges Madonna**, displayed in the Church's museum. This was one of two works featured in the Monuments Men movie. In one scene FDR asks Captain Frank Stokes if it was worth risking and losing men's lives to save mere objects and paintings. The captain responds by recounting a letter he received from a young soldier before his death. The captain explains that people will eventually be able to rebuild their shattered towns and homes, but if you destroy an entire people's history and cultural achievements, they will never be able to recover from that. Therefore, the fight to preserve their culture was entirely worth it. To close out our day of discovery we will celebrate dinner in the charming historic center of Bruges. (B, D) *Overnight Bruges*

- **Day 5 – Tuesday, September 14**
  Ghent to Aachen: Recovery and Remembering
  Today we follow the Monuments Men across once war-weary sites of Belgium to the Doorstep of the Reich. It is a day of recovery and remembering. Starting in the medieval gem of **Ghent** at the **Cathedral of St. Bavo**, we learn of a similar storied sacred treasure that was stolen and later recovered - **The Mystic Lamb** by Jan and Hubert van Eyck, (Ghent Altarpiece.) Less well-known is the tale of the '**swaying virgin**' in the **Church of the Assumption** in the village of **Le Gleize**. During the final days of the Battle of the Bulge, the church burned to the ground. Miraculously, a 14th-century oak statue of the Virgin Mary survived. Through the coordinated efforts of the Monuments Men and local villagers, the statue was moved to a secure location. Nearby is the **American Cemetery of Henri Chapelle**, where we will hold a prayer service to remember the service and sacrifice of the Monuments Men and the nearly 8000 US Armed Forces who lost their lives in Germany. Our final venue is a visit to the **Aachen Cathedral**. Now a restored baroque gem, we will learn of the heroic efforts of US Captain Walter Huchthausen and local civilians to reinforce the structure to prevent its collapse, and safely hide the priceless Cathedral Treasury. We close our day in the historic city of Aachen, where pilgrims will be treated to a fine dinner of regional foods. (B, D) *Overnight Aachen*

- **Day 6 – Wednesday, September 15**
  Cologne to Nuremberg: Moving Toward the Heart
  Continuing our odyssey, we visit a trio of treasures that offer icons of resilience and rebirth: **Cologne Cathedral**, **Siegerland Museum**, and the Wurzburg Residenz. The massive towers of the Cologne cathedral served as guiding lights for allied bombers who tried to avoid the cathedral. The importance of the Siegerland Museum centers around a subterranean tunnel in Siegen discovered by the Monuments Men. Holding hundreds of works of priceless art, it also contains the original score of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony. In March, 1945, 90% of **Wurzburg** was destroyed by Allied bombing. Monuments Man Lieutenant **John Davis Skilton** is credited with saving the city's greatest treasure -the fresco **Allegory of the Planets and Continents** painted by **Giovanni Battista Tiepolo**, located in the Würzburg Residenz. We close our day in Nuremberg, a city key to the Monuments Men story. *(B, L) Overnight Nuremberg*

- **Day 7 – Thursday, September 16**
  Nuremberg: Trio of Treasures
  As we continue our travels through the heart of Germany, we explore the breath of the Monuments Men's mission in a single, famed location - the historical city of **Nuremberg**. First, we descend into the **Art Bunker**, an expansive underground storage area where the Nazis hid looted art alongside Germany's most sacred artifacts, including the Imperial Regalia of the Holy Roman Empire. Next we explore the role the Monuments Men played in the **Nuremberg trials**. By providing photographic albums and inventories of Nazi-looted art, they assisted Allied prosecutors to convict high-ranking Nazi officials—most notably Hermann Göring—of war crimes and cultural theft. After touring the museum, we will visit the **Palace of Justice** and the very court room where the Nuremberg trials were held. Our day of discovery closes with a festive dinner in the Nuremberg town center. *(B, D) Overnight Nuremberg*



- **Day 8 – Friday, September 17**
  Dachau to Munich: Evil and Complacency
  While the **Dachau Concentration Camp** was not directly connected to the Monuments Men, our visiting it is a profound, somber, and deeply educational experience. It is here that we confront the realities of the Holocaust as we seek to understand how systemic hatred, the erosion of democracy and complacency can lead to profound human atrocities. Not only do we put faces and names to the stolen art, we also learn of the countless acts of goodwill undertaken by thousands to protect the priceless value of human life. We will also explore the human desire and need for beauty and reverence. More than 2,700 Catholic priests and clergy were imprisoned in a dedicated "Priest Block." Forbidden from public ministry, they secretly held Masses and fashioned sacred vessels and vestments from everyday materials, which are on display at the **Carmelite Convent of the Precious Blood** located next to the camp. Here we will celebrate a memorial Mass followed by lunch. Our day ends in the Bavarian capital of Munich. *(B, L, D) Overnight Munich*

- **Day 9 – Saturday, September 18**
  Altaussee and Salzburg: Tales of Beauty and Reverence
  On this penultimate day of our pilgrimage, it is fitting to visit two sites that lift the spirit and cultivate the heart. Our drive through postcard landscapes of alpine countryside builds a sense of anticipatory excitement for the mystery and miracle of their stories. Our first stop is the **Salzburg Cathedral**. In October 1944, this magnificent baroque structure sustained significant damage when an Allied air raid bomb crashed through its central dome. Overcoming severe postwar material shortages and labor deficits, the community banded together to restore their beloved icon. Today the cathedral towers and dome rise to the heavens like the surrounding mountains and give testimony to the power of hope and human resolve. Just 45 minutes from Salzburg, the ***Altaussee salt mine*** served as the Nazis' primary hiding place for Europe's most priceless masterpieces. In May 1945, Monuments Men Capt. Robert Posey and Pfc. Lincoln Kirstein discovered over 6,600 plundered artworks there, including Michelangelo's Madonna of Bruges and the Ghent Altarpiece. Local miners had bravely thwarted the Nazi plot to destroy the art by removing the explosives. We will tour the mine of this heroic and happy tale. After returning to Munich, pilgrims are invited to gather for an evening of **Sips and Stories**. *(B, L) Overnight Munich*

- **Day 10 – Sunday, September 19**
  Munich: Sacred Encounters
  Munich served as the central collection point for art works recovered by the Monuments Men. It is fitting that we close our last full day of our sojourn of beauty and reverence with a pair of treasures to celebrate and honor their service. Our day begins with high mass at **St Michael's Church**, a Renaissance masterpiece that was nearly destroyed during an allied bombing. We will also have a chance to visit the tomb of Bl Rupert Mayer, a Jesuit priest who led the Catholic resistance against the Nazis. Following brunch we will tour the **Alte Pinakothtek Museum**, which holds such sacred masterpieces as **Da Vinci's Madonna of the Carnation**, and the **Canigiani Holy Family** by **Raphael**. Even though many priceless works were destroyed by the Nazis, our visit reminds us that art is a testimony to the heights of human inspiration and endeavor and is meant for the edification and pleasure of all. No evil or ideology can destroy the human need and desire to encounter beauty. We will close the day and pilgrimage with a special sip and share as we raise our glasses to the Monuments Men and all those whose efforts gave us what we pass on as our legacy to the world. *(Brunch) Overnight Munich*

- **Day 11 – Monday, September 20**
  Departures
  Pilgrims return home or are welcome to stay in Munich for Oktoberfest.

B=Breakfast D=Dinner



ODYSSEY OF BEAUTY PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

Please note all the pricing below is currently estimated

REGISTER ONLINE AT TektonMinistries.org

LAND-ONLY PRICE PER PERSON

$4,595.00

Gratuities to guide, driver, hotel/restaurant staff **$165.00**
(estimated/pre-collected with final invoice)

ESTIMATED OPTIONS:

- For a single room: add $850

Final Payment Due **June 2027**

BASE RATE INCLUDES:

- Daily Mass at holy sites
- 9 nights' accommodation at 4 star hotels, including taxes and service charges
- Knowledgeable, inspiring, guides for tours and evening talks
- Deluxe motor coach transportation to all venues
- Entrance fees to museums and other venues listed on itinerary
- Daily breakfast and main meal (including wine or beer at the main meal)
- Hosted evening 'sips and stories' per the itinerary

Rates do not include: *airfare, airport transport, taxi, some tips, optional side trips and travel insurance*

Reservations and Payment: Tekton Ministries requires a non-refundable deposit of $300.00 per person at the time of booking. This deposit forms part of your final payment which is due 90 days prior to departure - after receiving the final invoice. All pilgrimage registrations must be made online through our website. Reservations made within 89 days of departure (or after the final invoices are sent) must be accompanied by payment in full. Any credit card payments other than the deposit will incur a convenience fee. Any reservations received within 45 days of departure will incur a late booking fee of $100.00 per person. Late payments may be subject to a late fee and/or possible removal from the pilgrimage. Pilgrimage prices are based upon a minimum number of 33 total pilgrims. Surcharges may be assessed for smaller group sizes.

Cancellations: All cancellations must be received in writing (email or letter). The following per person cancellation charges will apply in addition to any airline penalties and charges incurred by our suppliers: If canceled 91 days or more prior to departure, $300 will be charged. If canceled 90 - 61 days prior to departure, $1000.00 will be charged. If canceled 60 - 31 days prior to departure, $2000.00 will be charged. No refunds will be made within 30 days of departure. In addition, once the airline tickets have been issued, 100% of the airfare is non-refundable unless you have been advised otherwise at the time of your booking.

Travel Documents: A passport which is valid for 6 months past the date of your return flight home is required of all U. S. citizens. U.S. citizens may also be required to apply for ETIAS (start date TBD) to enter Europe. However, U.S. citizens do not require visas for European countries. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please call to find out if you need a visa. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for individual visas or passports.

Hotels: Accommodations are based on double occupancy rooms with private facilities. A limited number of single rooms are available at the supplement quoted and should be requested at the time of booking.

Air Transportation: Group air travel is not provided. However, Tekton Ministries will assist in booking your published airfares.

Baggage: Each passenger is allowed one checked bag and one carry-on. Tekton Ministries is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen baggage**.**

Travel Insurance: Basic travel insurance is required for this pilgrimage and not included in the pilgrimage price. We strongly recommend that you purchase comprehensive travel insurance for your trip. Registration information will be provided upon receipt of your deposit.

Not Included in base price: International airfare, gratuities to guide, driver, and hotel staff, passport/visa fees, personal travel insurance, laundry, beverages and items not on the regular menu of included meals, excess baggage charges, optional sightseeing and expenses of a personal nature.

Refunds: Subject to the foregoing Cancellation Terms, upon cancellation of travel related services, all sums paid to Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours for such services will be promptly returned to the passenger, provided the passenger has not caused such cancellation and is not in violation of any of the terms and conditions previously, clearly and conspicuously disclosed and agreed to by the passenger. This refund provision does not apply where Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours has remitted the payment to another registered seller of travel or a carrier and they default in providing the agreed-upon transportation or service without providing a refund. In such a situation, Tekton Ministries/George's International Tours agrees to provide passenger with a written statement accompanied by a copy of the bank records establishing the disbursement of the payment, and if disbursed to a seller of travel, proof of their current registration.

Trust Account Disclosure: California law requires certain sellers of travel to have a trust account or bond. George's International Tours has such a trust account.

Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"): George's International Tours is a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation ("TCRC"). You, the passenger, may request reimbursement from TCRC if George's International Tours was registered and participating in the TCRC at the time of sale and the passenger is located in California at the time of payment. Please be advised that passengers purchasing from outside of California are not covered by the TCRC. Eligible passengers may file a claim with TCRC if the passenger is owed a refund of more than $50 for transportation or travel services which George's International Tours failed to forward to a proper provider or if such money was not refunded to you when required. The maximum amount, which may be paid by the TCRC to any one passenger is the total amount paid on behalf of the passenger to George's International Tours, not to exceed $15,000. A claim must be submitted to the TCRC within six months after the scheduled completion date of the travel. A claim must include sufficient information and documentation to prove your claim and a $35 processing fee. You must agree to waive your right to other civil remedies against a registered participating Seller of Travel for matters arising out of a sale for which you file a claim with the TCRC, if you were located in California at the time of the sale. You may request a claim form by writing to: Travel Consumer Restitution Corporation, P.O. Box 6001, Larkspur, CA 94977-6001; or by faxing a request to 415-927-7698.

Responsibility Clause: Tekton Ministries, George's International Tours and/or their cooperating selling agents and/or their suppliers of services offer these tours for sale only on the express understanding that they themselves do not perform or in any way assume liability for the performance of the individual components, transfers, hotels, flights, car, motorcoaches, etc. of these tours and act only to combine these components into a single unit of sale for the convenience of the general public, and are not responsible therefore, either directly or indirectly, for any loss, accident, or injury which may result from any act, omission, negligence in or responsible for performing or providing these component services. The transportation companies concerned take no responsibility for any act, omission, or event during the time the passengers are not aboard their conveyances. The passenger contract issued by the transportation company shall constitute the sole contract between the transportation company and the passenger. Additional expenses incurred as a result of delay, change of schedules, illness, weather, strikes, hostilities, quarantine, government requisition of hotel space or any other reasons beyond the control of the tour operator or travel agent shall be borne by the passenger. Tour operator reserves the right to substitute hotels of similar category if necessary and to alter itineraries. Your deposit certifies that you agree with the above terms and conditions.

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