

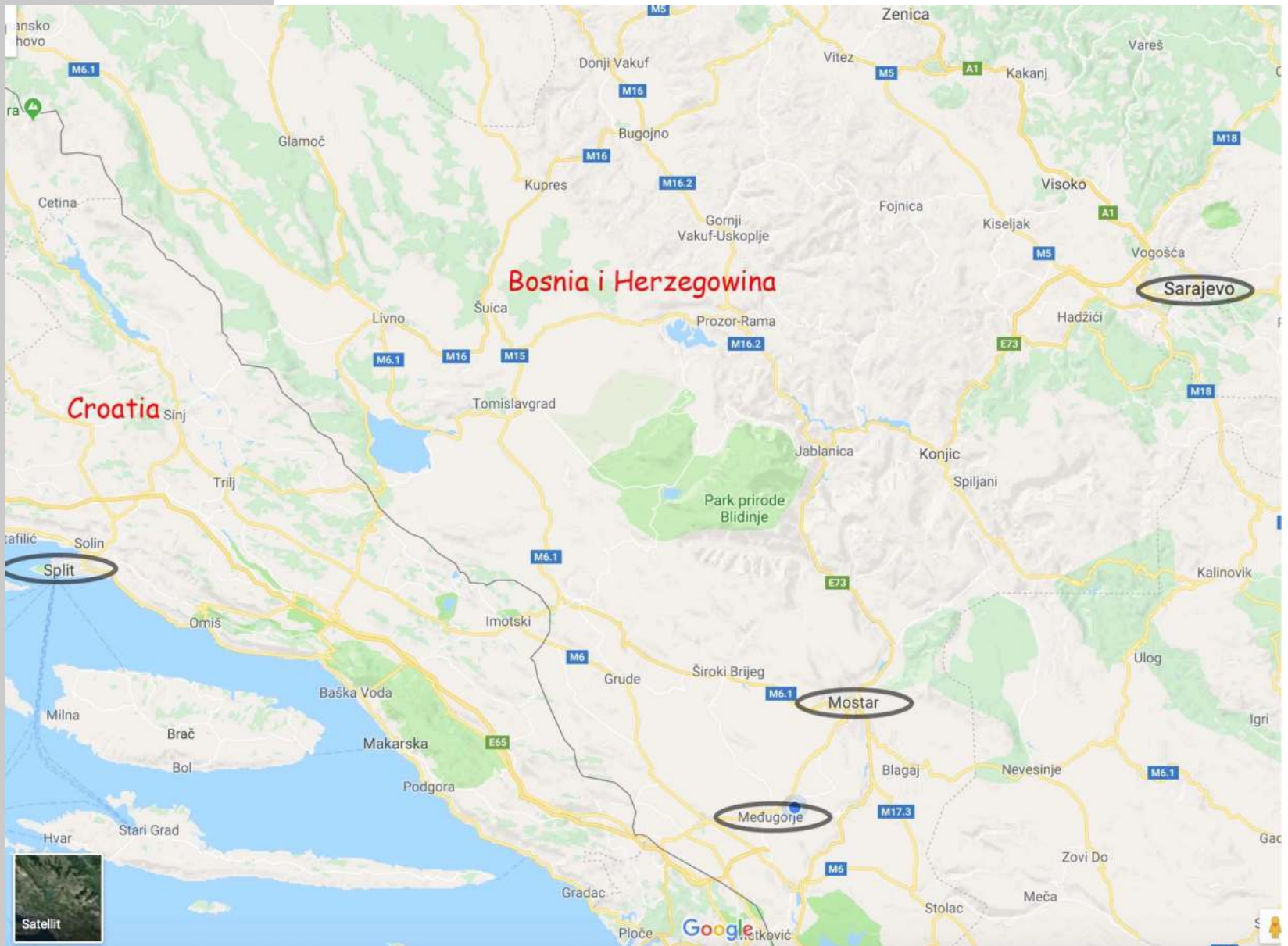
Ambulance Services of SMOM in Medjugorje



The Pilgrimage Location

- In 1981, children and adolescents from Medjugorje (at the time Yugoslavia) reported appearances of Mary, the mother of god. These appearances are said to continue up to now on a daily basis with regular messages from Mary.
- The catholic church has not yet officially commented on these appearances. Yet, it has recognised Medjugorje as an official pilgrimage location.
- Medjugorje is experienced as a location of intensive prayer and religious life.
- **Each year there are pilgrims in excess of 1 Million originating from about 100 different countries.**
- Since 1996, volunteers of the Order of Malta (SMOM) care for pilgrims from Palm Sunday through the end of October providing about 5.000 assistances annually.
- On peak days, up to 100 patients are being taken care of!

- Medjugorje is located ca. 30 km southwest of Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina.
- Closest airports are Mostar (30 km), Sarajewo (152 km) and Split (Croatia, 140 km).
- There are regular buses from the airports to Medjugorje.
- Transport via taxi from Mostar and Sarajewo can be organised.
- Travel via car is possible.
- Preferred length of engagement is two weeks (from Saturday to Saturday).
- Preferred size of a team is four volunteers; combined teams with volunteers of different origin possible.
- Each team must have at least two ambulancemen/paramedics. Firstaiders can join in support.
- Physical fitness required.





- Early shift 9:00 am – 2:30 pm.
- Late shift 3:30 – 9:00 pm.
- First Aid – further medical treatment by „Marijina Pomoc“, the association for the local medical staff.
- Support in the outpatient department.
- If required, transport of patients in the ambulance car to the public ambulance station in neighboring Citluk or to the hospital in Mostar.

The Service

- Receiving and registering patients in the outpatient departm.
- Assistance to medical staff upon request.
- First aid at the various locations.
- Transport of patients to the outpatient department (eventually on stretchers downhill).
- Transport of patients to hospital (in the ambulance car).
- Lending wheel chairs /crutches to patients.



The Marijina Pomoc Association

The volunteers of the Order of Malta have the responsibility for first aid, medical treatment of patients is being taken care of by Marijina Pomoc with its local doctors and nurses.



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Places of Operation

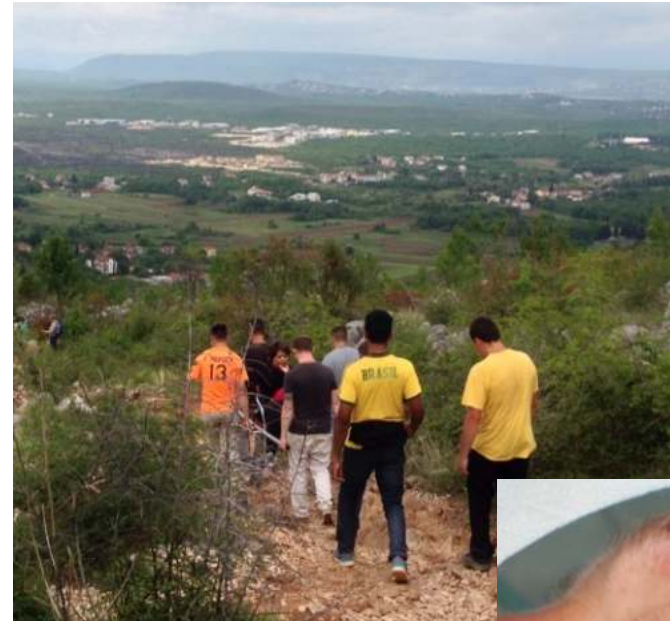
- Cross Hill (Ascent ca. 250 m difference in altitude, fitness required).
- Apparition Hill (ca. 100 m difference in altitude).
- Church, Churchsquare.
- Hotels.



The Cross Hill



Accidents



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St. Jacob's church



The Ambulance

Reception / Surgery / Storage



- Workwear for ambulance service.
- Sunprotection (Cap / Sunglasses recommended).
- Bed linen and towels available on site.
- Laundry can be commissioned locally (swift and cheap), Pressing iron available.
- In M. there are shops for food and general daily needs.
- Self – catering is possible.
- There are many restaurants with good value for money. Members of SMOM are welcome guests!
- The local coffee is very special. It might be advisable to bring along coffee for brewing from home. During the service, the nurses tend to offer good coffee.

The Ambulance

Accommodation / Kitchen / Recreation Room



The Country

If there are enough volunteers present, interesting sightseeing opportunities in the environment can be explored:
e.g. the bridge of Mostar, the cascades of Kravica, Dubrovnik, ...



We look forward to your engagement



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Further Information:

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