



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

FLIGHTS:

DATE	ARRIVAL	TIME	FLIGHT	PAX
14/05/2024	VCE	10:15 PM	From LHR BA 598 To VCE	26 PAX
23/05/2024	FCO	08:25 AM	From FCO BA 551 To LHR	26 PAX

HOTELS:

DATE	CITY	SERVICES	ADDRESS
14/16 May 2024	VENICE "Belstay Mestre" 1 dinner	PORTERAGE: YES CITY TAX: INCLUDED BEVERAGE: INCLUDED (water + wine)	Adres: Via Rotonda Romea 1, 30175 Venezia Mestre (VE) Phone: +39 0415092311
16/17 May 2024	PISA "Hotel Galilei" 1 dinner	PORTERAGE: YES CITY TAX: INCLUDED BEVERAGE: INCLUDED (water + wine)	Adres: Via Darsena 1, 56121 Pisa (PI) Phone: +39 050507111
17/18 May 2024	SIENA "Montaperti Hotel" 1 dinner	PORTERAGE: YES CITY TAX: INCLUDED BEVERAGE: INCLUDED (water + wine)	Adres: Strada di Poggio al Vento 1/a – 53034 Asciano/Arbia (SI) Phone: + 39 0577367402
18/20 May 2024	ASSISI "Dal Moro Gallery Hotel" 2 dinners	PORTERAGE: YES CITY TAX: INCLUDED BEVERAGE: INCLUDED (water + wine)	Adres: Via Giovanni Becchetti, 2, 06081 Santa Maria degli Angeli PG Phone: +39 0758043688
20/23 May 2024	ROME "Occidental Aran Park" 3 dinners buffet	PORTERAGE: YES CITY TAX: INCLUDED BEVERAGE: INCLUDED (water + wine)	Adres: Via Riccardo Forster 24, 00143, Rome (RM) Phone: +39 06510721



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

MASSES:

DATE	TIME	CITY	CHURCH
19 MAY	11:00 am	SIENA	St Francis Basilica CONFIRMED Address: Piazza Inferiore di S. Francesco, 2, 06081 Assisi PG Phone: +39 06 6988 0800
20 MAY	05.00 pm	ROME	St Paul outside the walls CONFIRMED Address: Piazzale San Paolo, 1a, 00146 Roma RM Phone: +39 06 6988 0800

CONTACTS:

Tour Escort: Enrico +39 327 811 9930
Emergency number: Renata +39 348 012 7516

ITINERARY:

Day 1 - 13 May - Departure: From your local USA international airport.
This evening we begin our journey to Europe. Meals will be served during our overnight flight.

Day 2 - 14 May - Venice / Padua / Mestre

Upon arrival at Venice Airport we will meet our professional tour manager and proceed to our waiting motor coach for the drive to Padua to visit a city which considers itself to be one of the oldest in Italy (according to local tradition, it was founded by the Trojans). We will see the beautiful Prato della Valle as we walk to the **Basilica of St. Anthony**, which houses the Saint’s tomb and relics. We will **enjoy a guided visit of the Basilica** complex. Continue to Venice / Mestre to check-in and relax before dinner at our hotel. Welcome to Italy! (D)

10:15 pm Upon arrival at Venice’s airport, we meet our tour manager after the baggage claim area. We board our coach and transfer to the hotel, check in
Dinner and Overnight in Mestre. (D)

<p>DINNER BOX: “Belstay Hotel”</p> <p><i>Pasta salad</i></p> <p><i>English-style roast beef</i></p> <p><i>Cold cuts and cheese</i></p> <p><i>Mixed salad</i></p> <p><i>Slice of cake</i></p>



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

Day 3 – 15 May - Mestre / Venice

This morning we will board a motor launch and travel through the canals to the islands of Venice. Our walking tour will include a visit to one of the glass factories for which the city is so famous, St. Mark's Basilica and Square, and views of the Doge's Palace, the Bridge of Sighs and Rialto Bridge. This afternoon is free to enjoy people-watching from a cafe in St. Mark's Square or to shop along the narrow streets and canals filled with bustling activity. In the late afternoon, we can enjoy an optional gondola ride arranged by our tour manager, before dinner at a local restaurant. In the evening we return by private boat to the mainland for overnight stay in Mestre. (BD)

Breakfast

09:00 am Board private boat

Upon arrival we have some times to enjoy the city with our Tour Manager *or attending Italian Mass (h 10:00 am)*

11:00 am Meet local guide and start your tour Basilica of St. Mark

01:00 pm Break for lunch

Free afternoon, *optional* gondola tour

06:45 pm Dinner in Venice at "**Rosso Pomodoro Restaurant**"

Calle Larga San Marco 30124 Venice Phone: +39 041 243 8949

08:30 pm Embark our private water taxi

Return to the hotel for Overnight (BD)

MENU DINNER: "Rosso Pomodoro Restaurant"

Pasta alla Norma (with aubergines and salted ricotta cheese)

Perch fillet with tomato caper and olive sauce

Aubergines with basil

Lemon sorbet

Day 4 - 16 May - Mestre / Padua / Pisa

This morning we check out and journey toward central Italy. No visit to Italy could be complete without experiencing the breath-taking view of its most famous landmark... but the Leaning Tower of Pisa is just one of a quartet of spectacular buildings on Pisa's 'Field of Miracles,' which also includes the Cathedral, Baptistery and Cemetery. Following our visit to Pisa we continue to our next hotel. Check in, dinner and overnight (BD)

Breakfast and check out



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

Drive to Padua (1H)

09:00 am We will visit the **Basilica of St. Anthony**

We continue and drive towards Pisa (4, 30 H)

Lunch on the way for our own

03:30 pm Upon arrival we will visit the city, **including Cathedral**, continue from outside to see Leaning Tower, Baptistery and Cemetery.

Upon arrival, we check into our hotel

Dinner and overnight in Pisa (BD)

MENU DINNER: “Hotel Galilei”

Ravioli in walnut sauce

Chicken cacciatore

Salad

Tart

Day 5 - 17 May - Florence / Siena

Today we will drive less than one hour to reach Florence and meet the local guide to discover its heritage. This city is undisputed cradle of the Renaissance era, where the splendor of the works of illustrious artists such as Michelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Botticelli can be found. We will visit the **Accademia**, where we will see Michelangelo’s famous David; the Duomo and Giotto’s Tower; the Baptistery’s Gates of Paradise; the open-air gallery of Signoria Square; and **Santa Croce Church** where Michelangelo is buried. The remainder of the day is ours to relax, or better yet - to become better acquainted with this lively city where the artistic heritage of the Renaissance is part of everyday life. We take our bus to Siena where we will spend next one night.

Dinner and overnight (BD)

Breakfast and check out

08.00 am We drive towards Florence (2, 30 H)

11:00 pm Upon arrived, time at leisure and independent lunch (St. Lorenzo Market)

02.00 PM Meet the local guide and visit Galleria dell ‘**Accademia**

Continue the City Tour + **St. Croce (inside)**

Regain our bus and return to the hotel

07:30 pm Dinner and overnight in Siena (BD).

MENU DINNER: “Montaperti Hotel”

Lasagne with Sienese Sauce

Beef Roast Beef with its Sauce and Vegetable Caponata

Tiramisu



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

Day 6 - 18 May - Siena / San Gimignano / Assisi

We check out after breakfast. Drive approx 1 hr and a half to reach **San Gimignano**, the most remarkable of the medieval, Tuscan hill towns, where time seems to have stood still since the Middle Ages. We will have some **free time before continuing to Siena**, where we stroll through narrow Gothic streets lined with palaces and patrician mansions and then reach one of Italy's finest squares, the Piazza Del Campo. We'll visit the magnificent Cathedral, as well as the birthplace of St. Catherine of Siena that passed a large part of her life inside the walls of this Basilica which today houses relics of the Saint. Continue to Assisi and its spectacular location in the heart of Umbria. Check in at the hotel, dinner and overnight. (BD)

Breakfast and check out

09:00 am meet our local guide enjoy a city tour of **Siena**, enclosed Basilica of St. Domenico

Break for lunch

02:00 pm Afternoon regain our coach and drive to **San Gimignano** (1H)

Enjoy free time in the beautiful medieval city

05:00 pm Regain our bus and drive to Assisi (3H)

Check in at the hotel

Dinner and overnight (BD)

MENU DINNER: "Del Moro Gallery "

Aged capocollo salad with salted ricotta flakes and balsamic vinegar

Umbrian legumes

Beef chunks with red wine and bay leaf

Peas with ham

Warm apple pie with lemon sauce

Day 7 – 19 May – Assisi

This morning we will explore this hilltop, walled town, which is a monument to the all-embracing spirituality inspired by St. Francis. We will tour the Basilica of **St. Clare**, that honors the foundress of the Poor Clare Sisters. This Saint followed the teachings of St. Francis very closely by also living a life of poverty and humility. By walk we reach the **Santuario Della Spogliazione where Blessed Carlo Acutis'** tomb is placed. Carlo is the first millennial to be declared Blessed who loved the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Next we walk to the Piazza del Commune, and the Basilica of St. Francis. In the upper



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

basilica, we will marvel at the site of the great frescoes from Giotto, which describes the life of St Francis, in the lower basilica we visit the tomb of **St. Francis**.

There will be some free time to absorb the unique atmosphere of this special place. We will depart Assisi in the **afternoon** to pause in the valley below the town and visit the Basilica of Santa Maria degli **Angeli with its Porziuncola** - the chapel given by the Benedictines to St. Francis and his followers, which became the cradle of the Franciscan Order. *The favourite refuge of St. Francis*. The very ancient chapel, venerated for an apparition of angels within it, was originally was located on a piece of land known as the Portiuncula; this name became attached to the chapel. After a long period of abandonment, it was restored by St. Francis. Here he was given a clear understanding of his vocation. He founded here the Order of Friars Minor (1209), "establishing here his home".

07:00 are Breakfast

09:00 am We meet our local guide, today we explore Assisi starting from the **Church of St. Clare**, walking down throughout the narrow streets, by walk we reach **the Santuario Della Spogliazione** where Blessed Carlo Acutis' tomb is placed. Carlo is the first millennial to be declared Blessed who loved the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

We will continue to **St. Francis Basilica**, where will marvel at the sight of the Giotto's frescoes in the upper basilica and then we see the tomb of the Saint

11:00 pm [Celebrate Mass](#)

Break for lunch

In the afternoon, we drive back to the valley of Assisi to visit the Basilica of St Mary of the Angels, to see the "portiuncola" the Chapel of Transit and the thorn less rose bush

07:30 pm dinner and overnight in Assisi. (BD)

MASS BY FR. MANY: Basilica of St. Francesco @11:00 am CONFIRMED

MENU DINNER: "Del Moro Gallery "

Pienza pecorino cheese flan on asparagus cream

MAIN PLATE (TBA)

Pork loin in Umbrian style

Rosemary baked potatoes

Wild berries Bavarian cream with lemon sauce

Day 8 - 20 May - Assisi / Rome: Basilicas of Rome

This morning we check out and depart Assisi to Rome where, upon arrival, we have an early lunch.

After we meet the local guide to visit the major Basilicas of Rome. We start at the Basilica of **St. Mary Major**, the ceiling of this church is said to be decorated with gold that Columbus brought back from the



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

new world. This basilica, the largest in Rome dedicated to the Blessed Mother, is part of the day's "Christian Rome" tour, and has beautiful Biblical mosaics, a marble floor, bell tower and one of the oldest shrines (containing a relic from the manger of the infant Jesus) dedicated to the Blessed Virgin. We continue to **St John Lateran**, the Mother Church of Rome, the oldest of the major basilicas and ranks first as the actual "parish church" of the Pope (Bishop of Rome). Crossing the street, we find the **Scala Santa** (Holy Stairs).

Tradition has it that these steps, said to be the staircase leading once to the praetorium of Pilate at Jerusalem, are sanctified by the footsteps of Jesus Christ during his Passion. Finally we head to the Basilica of **St Paul Outside** the walls, originally founded by Emperor Constantine in the 4th century, the Basilica is where the great Apostle Paul is buried. Here we also **celebrate Mass**. In the late afternoon, we check in at our hotel, and have time to relax before dinner and overnight. (BD)

Breakfast and check out

08.00 am We leave Assisi and drive towards Rome (3/ 3.30 H)

Upon arrival, we take a break for lunch nearby the Basilicas

01.00 pm We meet our guide and visit **St Mary Major, St John Lateran and the Holy Stairs.**

We drive to **St Paul outside** the Walls, visit the Basilica

05.00 pm [here we celebrate a mass](#)

After mass regain our bus and drive to the hotel, check in

Dinner and overnight (BD)

MASS BY FR. MANY: St. Paul outside the walls @ 05.00 pm CONFIRMED

MENU DINNER: "Occidental Aran Park"
REQUESTED

Day 9 – 21 May - Rome Imperial Rome - Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica

This morning we explore the enduring legacy of the Roman Empire by coach and on foot - we will see the *Baths of Caracalla, the Circus Maximus, Palatine and Capitoline Hills, the Roman Forum and the Colosseum.*

Continue to the Vatican State, where after lunch we will visit its **Museums, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica** and Square.

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

Breakfast



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

Drive to the Vatican area

09:30 am meet our local guide and we will visit the **Vatican Museums** and **Sistine Chapel**.

After we continue to **St. Peter's Basilica**.

Break for lunch

02:30 pm After breakfast we regain bus and continue our visit - Walking tour *imperial Rome*

05:30 pm Regain our Bus and drive to hotel

Dinner and overnight (B D).

MENU DINNER: "Occidental Aran Park"

REQUESTED

Day 10 - 22 May - WEDNESDAY - Rome (Papal Audience)

This morning we will participate in the Papal Audience, which will be requested for our entire group. In the early afternoon, those who wish can return to the hotel with our motor coach. Those who prefer to explore further on foot can join our tour manager to walk from St. Peter's Square, across the River Tiber to Piazza Navona and to the Trevi Fountain. Balance of the afternoon is at leisure for personal activities and for shopping. We are then free to return to the hotel by taxi. Dinner at the hotel. Overnight (BD)

06.15am Breakfast - **REQUESTED**

06.45 am Early transfer to the Vatican area where we take our seats and attend the Papal Audience

Balance of the day is at leisure, you can choose to return to the hotel by taxi

OR

Follow your guide on a Walk through the Piazzas of Rome and enjoy shopping.

07:30 pm We'll gather at the hotel for a dinner and overnight (BD)

MENU DINNER: "Occidental Aran Park"

REQUESTED



11 day Pilgrimage in Rome and Northern Italy
with Fr. Manuel Chavez
St . Helena Catholic Church

Day 11 -23 May – Departure

This morning we say 'Arrivederci' to Italy and to our tour manager as we transfer to Rome Airport to begin our journey home. We arrive in the US in the early evening. Welcome Home!

Box Breakfast and check out

05:20 am we drive to FCO Airport to take our flight back home **BA 551**

08:20 am flight departure time to **LHR.** (B)