

A 12 Days Pilgrimage to Rome and Northern Italy

with Fr. David McNamara
10/07/2024 - 10/18/2024

Day 1

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

Venice/Mestre: Upon arrival at Venice Airport we will meet our professional tour manager and proceed to our waiting motorcoach for the drive to our hotel. We will arrive in Mestre with time to check-in and relax before dinner at our hotel. Welcome to Italy! (D)

Day 3

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 in Mestre. (B, D)

Day 4

Mestre /Padova/ Pisa / Montecatini This morning we will celebrate early morning Mass at St Anthony's Basilica in Padova, before proceeding our journey to Tuscany. (4 hrs drive) 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. Continue to the SPA village of Montecatini Terme, where we will spend the next two nights

Day 5

Florence: - Today we will drive to Florence (1,5 hrs drive) and experience its heritage as we begin our morning walking tour. We will visit the Accademia, where we will see Michelangelo's famous David; the Duomo and Giotto's Tower; the Baptistry'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. Return to our hotel in Montecatini, dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 6

San Gimignano, Siena – Assisi We check out after breakfast and drive through the rolling hills of Tuscany to visit 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 in this town. After lunch, continue to Siena, where we stroll through narrow Gothic streets lined with palaces and patrician mansions. We'll visit the magnificent Cathedral, as well as the birthplace of St. Catherine of Siena. In the afternoon, we continued to Assisi and its spectacular location in the heart of Umbria. Before driving up to the hillside town and our hotel, we will enjoy wine tasting and an early supper at one of the local wineries. Overnight in Assisi. (B, D)

Day 7

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, the Piazza del Comune, and the Basilica of St. Francis (where Mass will be requested at the tomb of St. Francis), after which there will be some free time to absorb the unique atmosphere of this special place. Our tour includes also 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 – Afternoon at our leisure for personal activities. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight (BD)

Day 8

Assisi / Rome: Breakfast and check out. We will depart Assisi 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 to Celebrate Mass We then continued to Rome, where upon arrival 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 hotel for dinner and overnight. (B, D)



Day 9

Christian Rome: Today begins with a visit to the Basilica of St. John in Lateran, the Mother Church of Rome., which houses a table on which the Apostle Peter many times has celebrated the Eucharist during his stay in Rome. Then we will visit the Basilica of St Mary Major, which is one of the oldest and most important shrines in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Hoy Stairs- Mass will be celebrated at St Mary Major. The afternoon and evening are free to continue exploring the Eternal City. (B, D)



Day 11

Rome (Vatican Museums, Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica: This morning is dedicated to the Vatican State – we will visit its Museums, the Sistine Chapel, and St. Peter's Basilica and Square. The afternoon is free for individual pursuits before we celebrate the final Mass of our tour and enjoy our farewell dinner. (B, D)



Day 10

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 motorcoach. 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 on to the Pantheon. We are then free to return to the hotel on foot or by taxi, for an evening of leisure (B, D)



Day 12

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

**If you are satisfied with the services of your local team and would like to tip, we recommend \$7.00 per day per person to the Tour Guide, \$5.00 per day per person to the Bus Driver, and \$3.00 per day per person to the Hotel Team.*

Mass/Service will be celebrated daily if possible

\$4,695 per person
on double occupancy basis
**\$975 extra per single room*

-This Price Does Include:

- Round trip airfare, including all airline taxes
- Meet and assist upon arrival and departure at Rome airport
- Accomodation in 4-star hotels on H/B basis
- Transportation in a Modern Coach for all the tour days with Wi-Fi
- Excellent English and/or Spanish speaking tour guide
- Entrance fees to all sights, as mentioned in itinerary
- European adapter/transformer
- Portage at hotels
- Trip brochure, itinerary, and name tag
- Daily Mass/Service (if requested)

-This Price Does NOT Include:

- Health, cancellation, or baggage insurance
- Items of personal use (laundry, phone calls, and charger)
- Meals not mentioned in the program
- Items not mentioned above on the itinerary
- Lunch on road, beverages (alcohol), gratuities for hotel, guide, or driver
- Transportation to and from US airport
- Passport/Visa costs (if any)
- Trip cancellation protection
- Travel insurance
- Professional pictures taken

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