

RELIGIOUS ITALY ITINERARY 1 ROME – VATICAN CITY – ORVIETO – ASSISI

DAILY PROGRAM

DAY 1

ROME

Morning arrival in Rome. Meeting with an English speaking tour manager and with motorcoach . Departure to our hotel. The rest of the day is at our leisure. Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 2

VATICAN CITY/ROME

We enter St. Peter's through the Holy Doors to celebrate Mass and view the beautiful "Pieta." We visit the treasures of the Vatican Museum and marvel at Michelangelo's restored frescoes in the Sistine Chapel. We pray The Angelus with Pope Francis at noon (if he is in residence and did not celebrate our Mass this morning). Lunch is on our own. This afternoon we see two of Rome's major Basilicas—St. John Lateran and St. Mary Major; entering through the Holy Doors at each basilica. Our tour continues to St. Peter in Chains to view Michelangelo's possibly most celebrated sculpture, the "Moses". Dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 3

VATICAN CITY/ROME

This morning we enjoy a panoramic bus tour around the glorious city of Rome including the Roman Fora, the Arch of Constantine, the Coliseum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. After lunch on our own, we visit St. Paul's Beyond the Walls where we pass through the last of the Holy Doors of the Basilicas of Rome. This huge, imposing Basilica, second only to St. Peter's and one of the largest churches in the Christian world, contains an unusual gallery of papal portraits: 265 tablets portraying the popes of the past. We conclude our day at one of the Catacombs, burial place of early Christians. We celebrate Mass here and view the 2nd and 3rd century fresco paintings. We continue to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 4

ROME FREE DAY

Free day in Rome for personal adventure. If interested, optional day trip to Pompeii or Tivoli Gardens. You may choose to enjoy an opera this evening at the Teatro dell'Opera by securing your own tickets online.

DAY 5

ROME/ORVIETO/ASSISI

Today we travel north through the Umbrian countryside. We stop at Orvieto for a visit and Mass at the breathtaking Cathedral, which is known as the jewel of Italian architecture. Inside the Cathedral is the Chapel of the Corporal, which houses the chalice cloth involved in the Eucharistic Miracle which occurred in nearby Bolsena. In the 13th century, a pilgrim priest named Peter of Prague was celebrating Mass at the crypt of St. Christina. He was having a faith crisis concerning the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. While speaking the words of the consecration, blood started to drip from the consecrated Host. Subsequently, Pope Urban instituted The Feast of Corpus Christi. Lunch is on our own. Afterwards we continue to Assisi. Our first stop is in the lower town for a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, and the Portiuncula, Francis' Church of the Little Portion. We then proceed to the hilltop village of Assisi for dinner and overnight at our hotel.

DAY 6

ASSISI

This morning we begin with a short walk to the Basilica of St. Francesco for Mass. After our visit

to the Basilica and the tomb of St. Francis, our walking tour of the village begins with a visit to the Church of St. Clare. Lunch is on our own. This afternoon, our taxis take us up to the Hermitage of the Carceri, where Francis and his Friars retreated from the world to pray and fast. Here, the grotto of St. Francis can also be seen. We return to our hotel for dinner and overnight.

DAY 7

DEPARTURE

Breakfast at the hotel. Departure to Rome airport. End of the tour