

ALL ITALIAN SHRINES PILGRIMAGE

Rome, Assisi, Siena, Florence and Venice

with **Fr. Joe Rielage**



September 16-27, 2024

\$5,784 Per Person from Cincinnati (CVG)

All Pricing Based On Double Occupancy
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SCAN ME

Your Trip Includes

- † Round-trip airfare from Cincinnati (CVG)
- † Airport Taxes and Fuel Surcharges
- † 10 nights accommodation at centrally located first class hotels as follows: (or similar)
 - ~ 3 nights: Sep 17 – 20: Hotel Conciliazione, Rome
 - ~ 3 nights: Sep 20 – 23: Hotel Giotto, Assisi
 - ~ 2 nights: Sep 23 – 25: Starhotels Tuscany, Florence
 - ~ 2 nights: Sep 25 – 27: NH Padua, Padua
- † Breakfast and Dinner daily
- † Wine and mineral water with dinners
- † Transfers as per itinerary
- † Transportation by air-conditioned motor coach
- † Wireless headsets where needed
- † Assistance of a professional local Catholic Guide
- † Sightseeing and admissions fees as per itinerary
- † Flight bag & Digital confirmation of all travel documents
- † Mass daily & Spiritual activities
- † Luggage handling (1 piece per person)

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Contact Alex at 206 Tours: alexandra@206tours.com

Day 1, Mon, Sep 16: Depart for Rome

Make your way to your local airport to board your overnight flight(s). Dinner and breakfast will be served on board.

Day 2, Tue, Sep 17: Arrival in Rome

Welcome to Rome, also known as, "The Eternal City." Upon arrival at Rome airport, you will collect your luggage in the baggage claim area, and continue to the arrival's hall, where you will be greeted by a tour escort and/or driver. Make your way to the bus and transfer to your hotel. Following check-in, you will have time to explore Rome on your own. Your tour escort may suggest places to visit. Later in the afternoon meet at the hotel lobby, as we will make our way to Church to celebrate Mass, followed by a Welcome Dinner. After dinner, you will have the opportunity to walk to St. Peter's Square for the Rosary (optional).

Day 3, Wed, Sep 18: Rome: Papal Audience - Trevi Fountain - Basilica of St. John the Lateran - Holy Stairs - Basilica of St. Mary Major

This morning we attend the Papal Audience in St. Peter's Square or at the Audience Hall. The Audience is celebrated each Wednesday by His Holiness, Pope Francis (pending the papal schedule). Next Trevi Fountain area for some free time and lunch (on own). This afternoon, visit the oldest of the four major Basilicas in Rome, the Archbasilica of St. John the Lateran, the cathedral church and seat of the Bishop of Rome. Cross the street to the very steps that lead up to the praetorium of Pontius Pilate in Jerusalem which Jesus climbed on His way to trial during his Passion. Holy Mass will be celebrated by our priest at the Basilica of St. Mary Major, dedicated to Our Blessed Mother. This Basilica contains a relic from the manger of the infant Jesus. Dinner and overnight.

Day 4, Thu, Sep 19: St. Peter's Basilica - Vatican Museum - Appian Way - Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls - Catacombs

Today we tour St. Peter's Basilica, built on the site where St. Peter the Apostle was martyred. Here, you'll have the opportunity to view Michelangelo's Pieta sculpture, pray at the tombs of Pope Benedict XVI and St. John Paul II. Next you will visit the Vatican Museum, where you can see the Tapestry Gallery, Raphael Rooms, and Sistine Chapel. After lunch, continue down the Appian Way, one of the earliest roads built in ancient Rome to the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls and the Catacombs. Dinner and overnight in Rome.

Day 5, Fri, Sep 20: Rome - Orvieto - Assisi

Following breakfast will head north through the Roman countryside of vineyards and villas. Throughout this bus ride, your tour escort will share very interesting information regarding the spiritual, historical, and cultural aspects of Italy. On the way to Assisi we will make a stop in Orvieto, where a Eucharistic Miracle is preserved in the Cathedral of Orvieto. In 1263, a Priest stopped to celebrate Mass at Saint Christina's Church in Bolsena. Having doubts that the Eucharist was really the Body and Blood of Christ, the Priest was shocked when the host began to bleed right after the prayer of consecration. Unable to hide this fact, he interrupted the Mass and went to Orvieto where Pope Urban IV was in residence. The Pope ordered that the miraculous host and then linen altar cloth stained with blood be brought to Orvieto and placed on display, where it still rests today. The Cathedral also has some of the most magnificent frescoes to be found anywhere. The depicting visions of heaven and hell in the San Brizio Chapel rival those of the Sistine Chapel. After lunch, continue to Assisi, the hometown of St. Francis. Check-in to your hotel and enjoy delicious dinner and restful overnight.

Day 6, Sat, Sep 21: Assisi

Tour of the Basilica of St. Francis, where you will see the tomb of St. Francis, and have the opportunity to view a series of frescoes depicting his life, along with a few of the saint's possessions. Next you will visit the Santuario Della Spogliazione where Blessed Carlo Acutis' tomb is, the first millennial to be declared Blessed. Continue tour by walking through this picturesque town, where St. Francis and St. Clare both followed God's call to rebuild his church. Enjoy some free time - for additional prayer, shop and lunch. After lunch, board the bus, which will take you outside of the walls of Assisi, to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. This Basilica is made up of two structures, both of which you will visit. The first structure is the "Porziuncola" and the second is the "Capella del Transito" which is the place where St. Francis died. Return to the hotel for dinner and a restful overnight.

Day 7, Sun, Sep 22: Assisi - Gubbio - La Verna - Assisi

This morning you will ride through the beautiful Umbrian mountains to Gubbio. Following Mass visit the town of Gubbio, which seems painted

onto the hill, a succession of backdrops against which towers and houses stand out, surrounded by walls.

Through the power of God, St. Francis freed the town from a terrible and fierce wolf that afflicted it. After lunch on your own, the group will continue to La Verna, the place where St. Francis received the stigmata in 1224. Return to Assisi for dinner and overnight.

Day 8, Mon, Sep 23: Assisi - Siena - Florence

Breakfast, followed by a scenic drive to the Tuscan city of Siena. This medieval city is the birthplace of St. Catherine "Doctor of the Church", and the Apostle of Italy, St. Bernardine. Visit the Basilica of St. Catherine (which is also known as the Basilica of St. Domenico). St. Catherine passed a large part of her life inside the walls of this Basilica. It is here you will also view the incorrupt head of St. Catherine. After, visit the Shrine of St. Catherine, which occupies the site of her family home. Enjoy your walking tour through the Siena including a visit to its Cathedral (Duomo di Siena). Conclude at one of Italy's finest squares, the Piazza Del Campo, where you will be given free time to spend at your own leisure. There are a number of restaurants surrounding the square to have lunch, as well as shops for gifts and souvenirs. Continue on to Florence. Upon arrival in Florence, you will notice immediately that it is the land for art lovers. Some of the most world-renowned artists are from Florence such as Dante, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli, Donatello, and many others. For the remainder of the afternoon, you will have the opportunity to explore the streets of Florence at leisure. In the evening gather for dinner, followed by an overnight.

Day 9, Tue, Sep 24: Florence

In Florence, your day begins with breakfast, followed by a guided tour. The tour starts at the Church of the Holy Cross, the Santa Croce, where many nobles are buried, such as Michelangelo, Galileo, and Machiavelli. Continue to walk by Piazza Signorina, Palazzo Vecchio, Uffizi, Ponte Vecchio, and Republic Square to the Santa Maria del Fiore. This Cathedral is an iconic piece of architecture of the city of Florence. It was designed by Filippo Brunelleschi in the 13th century. Next, a visit to L'Accademia, the well-known art gallery. At this gallery, you will have the opportunity to view the work from artists such as Botticelli, Ghirlandajo, Pontormo and the ever famous sculpture by Michelangelo, David. This afternoon you will have time to explore Florence on your own. Return to hotel for dinner and an overnight.

Day 10, Wed, Sep 25: Florence - Padua

Following breakfast at your hotel, board the motorcoach for your transfer to Padua. This Northern Italian city honors the "Patron Saint of Lost Things and Causes", St. Anthony. You will begin a sightseeing tour of the city, including a view of one of the oldest Universities in Italy, the University of Padua, as well as the Basilica of Santa Giustina, the "Patron Saint of Padua." The tour will conclude at the Basilica of St. Anthony, where you will have the opportunity to visit his tomb. Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight.

Day 11, Thu, Sep 26: Padua - Venice (Full Day Excursion)

Today, you will have early breakfast and then board your bus to depart to the magical city of Venice. After Mass, enjoy a tour of the "city paved with water!" Your walking tour includes a visit to St. Mark's Square, the largest square in the city and the site of many government buildings; the Golden Basilica of San Marco, known for the great mosaics that depict the Old and New Testament of the Bible; the Bridge of Sigh, a bridge that will bring eternal love to those who drift below it. You will also have the chance to view the Doges' Palace (Duke's Palace), which served as the seat of the Government for the Republic of Venice for centuries. Return to Padua for dinner and overnight.

Day 12, Fri, Sep 27: Return Home

After an early breakfast and heartfelt farewells, transfer to Venice airport for return flights home.

**206 Tours Disclaimer: Though every effort will be made to follow the itinerary, it should be considered as an indication, rather than a contract of places to be visited. Occasionally local religious holidays, national days, weather, traffic conditions and other events may necessitate changes in the sequence of visits or the missing of certain visits*



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