



# Pilgrimage to ROME, SORRENTO AND AMALFI COAST with **Optional Post Tour to Assisi**



## April 12-20, 2024

**\$5,295** PER PERSON FROM **NEW YORK (JFK) & BOSTON (BOS)**

Optional Post Tour to Assisi | April 20-22, 2024

\$599.00 Per Person

*\*All Pricing Based On Double Occupancy\**



GROUP LEADER : **Mark Ryan**



SCAN ME



St. Peter Statue, St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City



Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi

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# Day by Day Itinerary

## Day 1, Fri, April 12: Depart for Naples

Make your way to your local airport, where you will board your overnight flight(s). Your meals will be served on board.

## Day 2, Sat, Apr 13: Arrival in Naples and continue to Sorrento

Welcome to Italy! Upon arrival at Naples airport, collect your luggage in the baggage claim area, and continue to the Arrivals Hall, where you will be greeted by a tour escort and/or driver. You will make your way to the bus and drive to Sorrento with its stunning panoramic views of the Bay of Naples, its picturesque narrow streets, parks, villa, and orange, lemon, and olive groves. Following check-in, you will have free time to unpack and relax, or explore Sorrento on your own. Your tour escort may suggest places to visit. Later in the afternoon, your group will meet in the hotel lobby for a "Meet and Greet" with your fellow pilgrims and depart for Mass. Following Mass, you will attend a welcome dinner. Overnight in Sorrento.

## Day 3, Sun, Apr 14: Sorrento - Amalfi Coast - Sorrento

Today you will tour the Amalfi Coast, widely considered one of the most beautiful coastlines in the world; deemed a UNESCO World Heritage site as an outstanding example of a Mediterranean landscape. You'll follow the 34 miles of winding roads, making a quick stop to view the breathtaking panoramic view of Positano. Continue on through Praiano where you will drive by St. Gennaro Church, to Amalfi, one of the four maritime Republics of Italy, and view the beautiful Amalfi Cathedral consecrated to its patron, Saint Andrew \*\*sing during Mass\*\*. Some free time for lunch before your last stop on the Amalfi coast, Ravello. View its interesting Cathedral devoted to Saint Pantaleone, and the Villa Rufolo, a venue for many festivals throughout the year, and magnificent gardens. View the Gulf of Salerno and its beautiful coastline. Enjoy the landscape on your return to Sorrento, where you will enjoy dinner and overnight.

## Day 4, Mon, Apr 15: Sorrento - Capri - Sorrento

Transfer to the pier in Sorrento and travel to Capri by hydrofoil. The isle of Capri is described in many ways: "The Blue Island," "The Sleeping Beauty," or better, "The Island of Love." Due to its beauty, Emperor Tiberius ruled the Roman Empire from this island for 10 years. Take a panoramic tour of the island by small minibuses and the Blue Grotto (weather permitting) by row boats with a local guide, including a visit to the wonderful Marina Piccola; the Salto di Tiberio, the "heart" of Capri; Piazza Umberto I, a small, closed off square resembling a courtyard; the gardens of Augusto, built on the ruins of ancient Roman structures. Return to Sorrento this evening for dinner and overnight.

## Day 5, Tue, Apr 16: Sorrento - Saint Philomena Sanctuary, Mugnano - Montecassino - Rome

Following breakfast, you will board your bus to enjoy the scenic route to Mugnano del Cardinale for a visit to the Shrine of Saint Philomena. When her remains were brought to the village church at Mugnano from Rome, graces, favors, and miracles began to occur among the village people. Miracles continued to occur year after year and in 1837, Philomena was elevated to sainthood. Continue to Montecassino During the bus ride, your tour escort will share interesting information regarding the spiritual, historical, and cultural aspects of Italy. Montecassino is the principle monastery of the Benedictine Order, founded by Saint Benedict around 530 A.D. Following the tour, there will have an opportunity to visit the gift shop, before we board the bus to Rome also known as Eternal City! Upon arrival in Rome check into Hotel and enjoy delicious dinner. After dinner, you will have the opportunity to walk to St. Peter's Square as a group, for the Rosary (optional).

## Day 6, Wed, Apr 17: 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). \*\*Informal singing at the Audience\*\*. 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 \*\*Sing during Mass\*\*. This Basilica contains a relic from the manger of the infant Jesus. Dinner and overnight

## Day 7, Thu, Apr 18: Rome: St. Peter's Basilica - Vatican Museum - Appian Way - Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls - Catacombs Colosseum and Roman Forum

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 pray at the tomb of St. John Paul II and view Michelangelo's Pieta sculpture. \*\*Sing during the Mass\*\*. 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. From there continue to Colosseum and learn everything from the construction to the gladiators who competed in the Colosseum's gory gladiatorial games. Its real name was the Flavian Amphitheater, after the emperors who built it in the first century after Christ. Colosseum refers to the "colossal" statue of Nero that at one time stood at the entrance. Continue with a tour of the Roman Forum in Ancient Rome and admire incredible ruins, like the Temple of

Julius Caesar. Dinner and overnight in Rome.

## Day 8, Fri, Apr 19: Rome: Downtown walking tour of Rome (Casello Sant Angelo, Piazza Navona, Pantheon, Spanish Steps, Gesu, Trastevere)

After a nice breakfast at your hotel, your ancient sightseeing tour of Rome starts! We will make our way to Castel Sant'Angelo where you can visit the tomb of a Roman emperor, see Raphael-inspired art, check out the site of fierce centuries-old battles with leftover cannons and cannonballs, have a stunning view of Saint Peter's basilica, admire a piece of Michelangelo architecture and see where popes lived when they were hiding from their enemies, and walk around a real castle-moat. Following Casello Sant Angelo, continue to the beautiful, Piazza Navona. This square was built on the former Stadium of Domitian that held many festivals and sporting events (86 A.D.). At the center of this square, stands the Fontana dei Quattro Fiumi (Fountain of the Four Rivers). There are four figures constructed on this fountain that represent four rivers: the Nile, Ganges, Danube, and Rio de la Plata. Continue with a visit of Pantheon, the remarkable architectural building: a cylinder with the floating dome on top of columns, it is the largest masonry vault ever built. In the center of this Dome is a hole bringing in a shaft of light to show the beauty of this building and its relatively simple, open interior. Being inside the Pantheon feels very special. Originally built in 27 BC and rebuilt by Emperor Hadrian in 120 AD, the temple has been damaged and plundered over time. In 609 AD it became a Christian church dedicated to the Madonna. In the 17th century some of its bronze ceiling was taken and melted down for use in St Peter's Basilica. Important figures such as King Victor Emmanuel II and the artist Raphael are buried in the Pantheon. From there continue to visit Spanish Steps. Conclude the day with visit of Church of Gesu which houses the body of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, and a fascinating relic of St. Francis Xavier's right arm with which he allegedly baptized 300,000 people. This is the first Jesuit church in Rome and one of the most striking examples of baroque Roman art. \*\*Sing during the Mass\*\*. Continue to view St Philip Neri's relics preserved in an urn below the altar in the Chapel of St Philip Neri in the Chiesa Nuova. Delicious dinner and restful overnight in Rome.

## Day 9, Sat, Apr 20: Rome - Rome Airport

Following breakfast transfer to Rome airport for return flights home with memories for a lifetime!

## Or for pilgrims taking post tour to Assisi:

## Day 9, Sat, Apr 20: Rome - Orvieto - Assisi

Following breakfast will head north through the Italian 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 on to Assisi, birthplace of St. Francis. Dinner and overnight in Assisi.

## Day 10, Sun, Apr 21: Assisi

As you visit the birthplace of St. Francis, you will become captivated as the atmosphere has not changed since St. Francis began his ministry, in the early 13th century. You will start your tour at the St. Francis Basilica, visit his 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. \*\*sing during Mass\*\* Followed by a visit to 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. From there, you will continue on a walking tour through this picturesque town, including the birthplace of St. Francis, and end with a tour of the Church that honors St. Clare, 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. Enjoy some free time on your own - you may take this time for additional prayer, shop in the many gift shops or enjoy a nice lunch. After lunch, you will board the bus, which will take you outside of the walls of Assisi, to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. This is where St. Francis spent most of life. This Basilica is made up of two structures, both of which you will visit. The first structure, is the "Porziuncola", which is where St. Francis founded his order of the Friar Minor (Franciscans). The second, is the "Capella del Transito", which is the place of St. Francis' death. During your time here, you will have the opportunity to visit the beautiful Rose Garden where St. Francis and other friars lived, as well as the cave where the Saint retired to pray. Return to the hotel for dinner and an overnight.

## Day 11, Mon, Apr 22: Assisi - Rome Airport

Following breakfast transfer to Rome airport for return flights home with memories for a lifetime!

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