

SHRINES OF ITALY



PILGRIMAGE TO ASSISI & ROME

20 May 2018 – 7 night Tour

£849
per person

Sample Itinerary

Day 1: Sunday 20 May

Our flight to Rome departs Bristol at 12.10hrs arriving into Rome at 15.45. On arrival into Rome, we will be met by the Joe Walsh Tours pilgrimage co-ordinator and transferred by private coach to our accommodation in Assisi. In Assisi we will stay in the Hotel Frate Sole in Santa Maria degli Angeli for two nights with breakfast and evening meal each day. Dinner and overnight in Hotel Frate Sole.

Day 2: Monday 21 May

This morning we have a walking tour of the main sights of the medieval town of Assisi. We visit the impressive thirteenth century Basilica of St. Francis, the mother church of the Franciscan order. Construction of the Basilica started a mere two years after the death of St. Francis. This was uncommon at the time but the enthusiasm of the people to create a permanent home for the body of the beloved Francis pushed them to complete the masterpiece of the lower church in just two years, an amazing feat for that era. We also visit the Basilica of St. Clare, foundress of the Order of the Poor Clares. St. Clare followed the teachings of St. Francis by living a life of poverty and humility. Clare died in 1253 and her incorrupt body is in the Basilica. The original San Damiano cross, the cross that Francis was praying before when he received his commission to rebuild the church, is also in this Basilica.

We also visit the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels which houses the Porziuncola, the abandoned chapel that St. Francis restored. This was the chapel of St. Francis's first community and is the cradle of the Franciscan order. Dinner and overnight in Hotel Frate Sole.

Day 3: Tuesday 22 May

After breakfast we depart for Rome, stopping en route in Cascia. We visit the Basilica where the relic of the Eucharistic miracle and the tomb of St. Rita are housed. St Rita is known as patron of desperate and impossible cases, this is because she overcame the difficulties of each stage of her life without losing her faith in God.

On our way into Rome we will see some of the ancient parts of the city, including the Roman Forum, the hub of religious, civil, social and commercial activity in Rome over two thousand years ago and the infamous Colosseum, whose construction began in 72AD. The Colosseum took eight years to build and today its grandeur and monumental size still reflects its former splendour. We continue to Hotel Milani we will be staying for five nights with breakfast each day.

Day 4: Wednesday 23 May

This morning we attend the Papal Audience with Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square (subject to the Pope being in Rome). The Basilica is the ultimate destination of many pilgrims to Rome. It is the centre of Christendom as the tomb of St. Peter lies directly under Michelangelo's famous dome. In the afternoon we have a guided tour of historical Rome which will include visit to the Pantheon, Piazza Navona and the Trevi Fountain. There will be free time to explore the local shops or to have a cappuccino or a gelato!

Day 5: Thursday 24 May

Today we travel south east of Rome to Subiaco and the cave where St. Benedict lived as a hermit, sustained by a basket lowered into the cave by a monk containing scraps of food. After 3 years in the cave, Benedict set up his first monastic community and ended up living in Subiaco for 20 years and it was here that he wrote his famous 'rule' that would become the standard guideline for western monasticism.

Day 6: Friday 25 May

Today we visit the Basilica of St. John Lateran. This Basilica is the site of the first church allowed by Emperor Constantine. It is considered the 'Mother Church' of Roman Catholicism. It is the Cathedral of Rome and the Church of Rome's Bishop, Pope Francis. We visit the nearby 'Holy Stairs' the 28 Marble steps which Jesus climbed on the day he was sentenced to death which according to tradition were transported from Pontius Pilate's palace in Jerusalem to Rome by Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine.

Day 7: Saturday 26 May

Free day today – Take the opportunity to visit the nearby Basilica of St. Mary Majors, a beautiful basilica with magnificent mosaics and one of the first shrines dedicated to Our Lady.

Day 8: Sunday 27 May

We check out of our guesthouse and travel to the Basilica of St. Paul outside the walls. This Basilica was built in the fourth century on the spot where the disciple Paul was buried. The remains of St. Paul are housed in a tomb in the Basilica's crypt. Along the nave of this beautiful basilica, we see mosaics of all the popes, starting with St. Peter and ending with Pope Francis. After lunch we travel to Fiumicino for our flight departing 16.20hrs arriving into Bristol at 18.05hrs.

Transport & Accommodation

- Direct flight from Bristol to Rome
- Transfer on arrival from the airport to our accommodation in Assisi with guide assistance
- 2 nights' Hotel Frate Sole, Assisi with Breakfast and evening meal
- 5 nights' Hotel Milani, Rome with breakfast each day
- Transfer to Fiumicino Airport for return flight
- Direct flight from Rome to Bristol
- Luxury air-conditioned coach for all transfers and tours

Tours & Religious Programme

- Walking tour of Assisi visiting the main sights of the medieval city and also Porziuncola
- Visit the tomb of St Rita in Cascia
- Visit Subiaco monastery
- Visit Basilicas of St. Peter, St, John Lateran, St. Mary Major and St. Paul Outside the Walls
- Guided walking tour of Rome

Notes

- Price per person sharing twin/double rooms with private facilities
- Prices are inclusive of airline taxes and charges
- Travel insurance can be obtained if required for £29 and cover is up to 85 years.
- Passengers are entitled to carry one piece of check in luggage 20kg, also one piece of hand luggage (10kg per person)
- Single rooms are on request - £210 for the pilgrimage
- Itinerary and flight details may be subject to Change: E&OE
- All bookings protected by the Civil Aviation Authority in the UK (ATOL 5163 | ABTOT 5332)



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