



8 DAY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING ROME AND ASSISI

(Overnights: 6 Rome)

M: Meals served on board – B: Breakfast – L: Lunch – D: Dinner

Day 1: HOME/ROME

Depart for Rome, the Eternal City, on regular scheduled airline service. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. (M)

Day 2: ROME

Arrive at Rome's Da Vinci Airport. After passport control, meet the tour leader who will accompany you to the hotel. As check-in time is at 2 pm, walk to **St. Peter's Square** for a first view of the magnificent Basilica. Stop at a nearby café for a cappuccino or a bite to eat on the way back to the hotel. Settle in and adjust to the new time. Meet in the late afternoon for a walk to nearby church to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for a safe trip. This evening's dinner will be served at a restaurant near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3: ROME

Begin the day with an early Mass, possibly in the Vatican Grottoes. Afterwards, take part in a **Scavi Tour**, the excavations beneath St. Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon, a guided tour of the **Vatican Museums** unveils treasures of famous artists and the **Sistine Chapel**, Michelangelo's masterpiece. The tour ends with the most magnificent of churches, **St. Peter's Basilica**. The evening is yours to discover on your own all that Rome has to offer. (B)

Day 4: ROME/ASSISI/ROME

Depart Rome early for a day trip through the "green heart" of Italy, the region of Umbria, to the hometown of St. Francis, Assisi. On arrival celebrate Mass at the **Basilica of St. Francis** and visit the Basilica led by a Franciscan friar. Enjoy some free time for lunch and souvenir shopping before beginning a guided tour of the **Basilica of St. Clare**, **St. Francis' birthplace** and the **Piazza del Comune**. On the return to Rome, stop at the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels** with its Porziuncola Chapel. Arrive in Rome for dinner on your own. (B)

Day 5: ROME

What a way to begin the day, at St. Peter's Square to attend the **General Papal Audience** given by His Holiness Pope Francis. After an included lunch, a guided tour will introduce the major sites of Ancient Rome which include the majestic **Colosseum** and the **Roman Forum**, one of the largest archeological sites in the world. The tour ends with a visit of the **Basilica of St. Mary Major** where Mass will be celebrated. The evening is yours to try out independently one of Rome's endless fine restaurants. (B, L)

Day 6: ROME

An early Mass at St. Peter's will mark the beginning of your day. Enjoy the atmosphere at St. Peter's as pilgrims from all over the world await to recite the Angelus and receive the Papal Blessing from the Holy Father. In the afternoon, a visit is planned to the 4th Century **Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls**. (B)

Day 7: ROME

This morning, a guided tour will include the Basilica of Rome, **St. John Lateran**, the **Holy Stairs** believed to be actual steps Jesus climbed the day He was sentenced to death and the **Holy Cross of Jerusalem**, housing the Passion Relics brought to Rome from the Holy Land by St. Helena of Constantinople. The remainder of the day is open for last minute independent sightseeing, i.e. the Trevi Fountain where you can toss that coin that assures your return to Rome, shopping or packing. In the evening, an "Arrivederci Roma" toast is in order at the Farewell Dinner. Let the wine flow as you tune in to some of Italy's most famous melodies. (B, D)

Day 8: ROME/HOME

This morning, you will be accompanied by your tour escort by motor coach to the airport and assisted with check in formalities to board your flight home. You will be asking yourself "where did the time go?" (M)



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