



8 DAY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING ROME AND ASSISI

(Overnights: 1 Assisi and 5 Rome)

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/ASSISI

Arrive at the Da Vinci Airport in Rome. After passport control, meet the tour leader and board the private motor coach that will take you through the Umbrian countryside to Assisi. Settle in and adjust to the new time. This afternoon, a Mass of Thanksgiving for a safe arrival will be celebrated at the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels**. View the **Porziuncola**, the small church within the church from where the Franciscan movement began. Return in time to enjoy dinner at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 3: ASSISI/ROME

Celebrate an early Mass, possibly at the Tomb of St. Francis. Afterwards, a guided tour will include the **Basilica of St. Francis**, the **Basilica of St. Clare**, **St. Francis' birthplace** and the **Piazza del Comune**. After an included wine tasting/lunch, board the coach that will take you to Rome. This evening, discover one of the many remarkable restaurants of Rome, on your own. (B, L)

Day 4: 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**. Return to the hotel and have

dinner at a restaurant close by. (B, D)

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)

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



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