



9 DAY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING ROME, ASSISI AND ORVIETO

Overnights: 2 Assisi and 5 Rome

Day 1: HOME/ROME

Depart on a non-stop flight to Rome, the Eternal City. 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

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**. Enjoy an included wine tasting/lunch and then the afternoon is open. Possibly visit the Church of St. Damiano, the first monastery of the Order of St. Clare or take a hike to the Eremo delle Carceri, the hermitage where St. Francis prayed, surrounded by grottoes where hermits came to dwell and meditate. This evening, discover one of the quaint little restaurants of Assisi, on your own. (B, L)

Day 4: ASSISI/ORVIETO/ROME

After breakfast, depart for yet another lovely Umbrian town, Orvieto. Mass will be celebrated at the **Cathedral of Orvieto**, followed by a visit. Utilize the free time to browse the narrow streets and to grab a quick lunch before departing for Rome. Dinner will be served at or near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 5: ROME

Celebrate an early Mass at the **Church of St. Peter's in Chains**. Afterwards, begin a guided visit of the Church and its famous **Statue of Moses**, then move on to the world's largest Roman amphitheater, the **Colosseum**. The

tour ends with the **Roman Forum**, one of the most impressive archeological sites. The afternoon is free for independent activities. Meet in the evening for a short walk for a pizza party dinner at a nearby restaurant. (B, D)

Day 6: ROME

This morning participate in a guided tour of the impressive **Vatican Museums**. Walk through some of the most unique rooms and view masterpieces of famous artists, the **Sistine Chapel** with Michelangelo's work of art, the "Last Judgment". Then, visit the most magnificent of churches, **St. Peter's Basilica**. After some free time for lunch, possible **Scavi Tours**, the excavations beneath St. Peter's, will be arranged. The remainder of the day is free to discover Rome on your own. A monument not miss seeing is the Pantheon, the oldest standing domed structure in Rome, once a temple dedicated to all gods, currently a Catholic Church where many illustrious deceased are buried and possibly end up at the Piazza Navona to view Bernini's Four Rivers Fountain and enjoy a "gelato" at one of the sidewalk cafés. Dinner will be served at a restaurant near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7: ROME

What a way to begin the day, at St. Peter's Square to attend the **Papal Audience** given by His Holiness Pope Francis. After an included lunch, ride along the Appian Way to the **Catacombs**, a network of underground cemeteries that provide a vivid sign of the origin of Christianity, where after a visit, Mass will be celebrated. Continue with a guided visit of the **Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls**, whose construction began in the 4th Century, and the largest church of Rome, the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**. The evening is yours to discover on your own one of Rome's endless fine restaurants. (B, L)

Day 8: ROME

Discover more of Rome's religious sights during the tour which begins with the **Holy Steps**, believed to be the actual ones Jesus climbed when He was sentenced to death, the basilica of Rome, **St. John Latera and the Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem**, housing the Passion relics brought to Rome from the Holy Land by St. Helena of Constantinople, and the **Basilica of St. Clemente** with its three layers of excavations below. After free time for lunch, the remainder of the day has been set aside for last minute shopping or sightseeing. Why not visit the world famous Trevi Fountain; remember to toss in that coin that ensures your return to Rome! Maybe walk along the designer shop lined street, the Via Condotti, to reach the Spanish Steps where 135 monumental steps lead up to the church of the Santissima Trinita' dei Monti, before returning to the hotel. This evening, an "Arrivederci Roma" toast is in order before enjoying the Farewell Dinner at a festive Roman restaurant in the old part of Rome called Trastevere. (B, D)

Day 9: ROME/HOME

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

Meal Legend: M = Meals served on board B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner



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