



12 DAY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING ROME, ASSISI, ORVIETO, SORRENTO, POMPEII, MONTECASSINO AND ANZIO

(Overnights: 2 Assisi, 6 Rome and 2 Sorrento)

Day 1: HOME/ROME

Depart on a regular scheduled 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**. After an included wine tasting and lunch, the afternoon is open for those that wish to visit the Church of St. Damiano, the first monastery of the Order of St. Clare. Another possibility is 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. After check-in, possibly walk to the picturesque area of Borgo Pio, where you can purchase religious articles. Dinner will be served at or near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 5: 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, take part in a guided tour of the **Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem**, housing the Passion relics brought to Rome from the Holy Land by St. Helena of Constantinople. Continue to the **Holy Steps**, believed to be the actual ones Jesus climbed when He was sentenced to death, and the basilica of Rome, **St. John Lateran**, where Mass will be celebrated. This evening, explore for a favorite spot in one of Rome's endless choices of fine restaurants. (B, L)

Day 6: ROME

The day starts with a visit of the Basilica of **St. Mary Major**, the largest church of Rome, and then continues with the 4th Century **Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls**. Afterwards, 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. Savor an included lunch, and then enjoy a free afternoon for independent activities. (B, L)

Day 7: ROME

Celebrate Mass at the **Vatican Grottoes**, and then 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". The tour ends with a visit of the most magnificent of churches, **St. Peter's Basilica**. After free time for lunch, move on to the world's largest Roman amphitheater, the **Colosseum**. The tour continues with the **Roman Forum**, one of the most impressive archeological sites. Finally, visit the **Church of St. Peter's in Chains** and its famous **Statue of Moses**. Return to your hotel in time for dinner nearby. (B, D)

Day 8: ROME/SORRENTO

A leisurely ride southwards on the Autostrada del Sole, the Highway of the Sun, will take you to Sorrento, a sea resort town on the Tirreanean coast. Mass will be celebrated at a selected church, then utilize the free time to enjoy the lively atmosphere as you stroll the streets lined with shops offering local inlaid wood products as well as an endless variety of limoncello decanters and glasses. Dinner this evening will be served at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 9: SORRENTO/POMPEII/SORRENTO

Start your day by boarding the coach that will take you to ancient Pompeii. Upon arrival, visit the excavations of the Roman town which was buried in one of the most disastrous volcanic eruptions, in 79 A.D. Mass will be celebrated at the Cathedral of Pompeii, before returning to Sorrento. Dinner will be served at or near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 10: SORRENTO/MONTECASSINO/ANZIO/ROME

After breakfast, depart for Montecassino, a small town home of the sacred relics and monastery of St. Benedict, the patron saint of Europe and the founder of western monasticism. Your visit includes the historic **Abbey**, where Mass will be celebrated. After free time for lunch, continue to Anzio and pay your respects at the **War Cemetery**, a special and communal cemetery containing 1,056 graves from World War II. Finally, return to Rome, where dinner will be served at or near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 11: ROME

This morning, celebrate mass at **St. Peter's Basilica**, then join a **Scavi Tour** of the excavations beneath St. Peter's. The remainder of the day is free to discover Rome on your own. Why not visit the world famous Trevi Fountain; remember to toss in that coin that ensures your return to Rome! Another 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 dead are buried. 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 12: 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)



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