



10 DAY PILGRIMAGE INCLUDING ROME, SIENA, FLORENCE, ASSISI AND ORVIETO

(Overnights: 1 Venice, 2 Siena, 1 Assisi and 4 Rome)

Day 1: HOME/VENICE

Depart from the home city airport on the flight to Venice. Dinner and breakfast will be served on board. (M)

Day 2: VENICE

Arrival at Marco Polo airport. After clearing customs, meet your tour leader who will assist you and direct you to the motor launch. It is time to make your grand entrance into Venice as you cruise along the Grand Canal, on the way to your hotel. In the afternoon, discover Venice in a walking tour of **St. Mark's Square**. See the soaring **Bell Tower**, the **Doge's Palace** from which the powerful dukes ruled their empire during the 15th century and the incredibly rich **Basilica of St. Mark** where Mass will be celebrated. Dinner will be served at or near the hotel. Afterwards, possibly enjoy an optional "gondola" ride along the unique canals.

Day 3: VENICE/PADUA/SIENA

Transfer by private motor launch to the main land and board the motor coach that will take you to Padua. Admire **Donatello's Statue** and enjoy a visit of the **Church of St. Anthony** and his tomb. Continue to via the Tuscan countryside to reach Siena where dinner awaits, at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4: SIENA/FLORENCE/SIENA

Leave the hotel early to board the coach for an excursion to Florence. On arrival, begin a guided, walking tour of the city which will include the **Academy** with Michelangelo's statue "**David**", the **Cathedral of St. Mary of the Flower and Baptistery**, the **Piazza della Signoria** and the **Church of Santa Croce**, where possibly Mass will be celebrated. There will be free time afterwards to explore further this Renaissance city. Stroll past the never ending "gold" boutiques that line the Ponte Vecchio, discover the city's flea market or visit the Uffizi Museum. Return to Siena and, on the way, stop in the Tuscan hills for an included wine tasting and dinner. (B, D)

Day 5: SIENA/ASSISI

Begin the day with Mass at the **Basilica of San Domenico**, holding the remains of the head of Saint Catherine. Begin here a guided tour, then move on to discover other treasures of Siena, the splendid **Cathedral** and **Piazza del Campo** where each year the famous and dangerous "Palio" horse race takes place. After free time for lunch, continue through the Umbrian countryside referred to as the "green heart" of Italy to reach the peaceful town of Assisi, home of St. Francis. On arrival, discover this charming town in a guided tour will include the **Basilica of St. Francis**, the **Basilica of St. Clare**, **St. Francis' birthplace** and the **Piazza del Comune**. Take in the atmosphere walking around the town before dinner which will be served at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 6: ASSISI/ORVIETO/ROME

Celebrate an early Mass, possibly at the Tomb of St. Francis. Afterwards, there will be a little free time for a visit the Church of St. Damiano, the first monastery of the Order of St. Clare or for souvenir shopping. Depart for yet another lovely Umbrian town, Orvieto, stopping along the way for a visit of the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels** and its **Porziuncola Chapel**. Upon reaching Orvieto, walk around and find your spot for a quick lunch before visiting the **Cathedral of Orvieto**, housing the Corporal of Bolsena, preserved in a reliquary. Continue to Rome and arrive in time for dinner at or near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 7: ROME

Today's guided touring includes the **Church of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem**, housing the Passion relics brought to Rome from the Holy Land by St. Helena of Constantinople, 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**. Drive along the ancient Appian way and enjoy a light lunch in a restaurant set amidst the green of this lovely area. Afterwards, visit the **Catacombs**, a network of underground cemeteries which are a vivid sign of the origin of Christianity, where you will celebrate Mass. Continue to discover the **Basilica of St. Paul's Outside the Walls**, whose construction began in the 4th Century the **Basilica of St. Mary Major**, the largest church of Rome. This evening, discover independently one of Rome's endless fine restaurants. (B, L)

Day 8: ROME

Begin the day with a tour of the impressive **Vatican Museums**. Walk through some of the most unique rooms and view the works of art of famous artists, the **Sistine Chapel** with Michelangelo's masterpiece "The Last Judgment" and visit the most magnificent of churches, **St. Peter's Basilica**. After free time for lunch, the guided sightseeing features the massive **Colosseum**, the incredible excavations of the **Roman Forum** and the **Church of St. Peter's in Chains**, housing the statue of **Moses** by Michelangelo and the chains that held St. Peter when he was imprisoned in Rome and in Jerusalem, where Mass will be celebrated. Dinner this evening has been arranged near the hotel. (B, D)

Day 9: ROME

Begin the day bright and early with a Mass celebration then walk to St. Peter's Square to attend the unforgettable **General Papal Audience** given by His Holiness Pope Francis. The afternoon is yours for last minute shopping or sightseeing. Be sure not to miss visiting the Trevi Fountain and toss in that coin that will insure your return to Rome! 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 10: 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?" (B, M)

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



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