



11 Day Tour to Rome – Assisi - Campania

Day 1 : Overnight flight to Italy (tour arrives in Rome and departs from Rome)

Day 2: Rome Italy – Tour begins in Rome with a bus tour of the city ... lunch on your own and then join fellow tour guest for a Welcome Dinner at the local restaurant with regional delicacies and fine Italian wines for dinner, **included**.

Day 3: Breakfast **included**. Rome – Assisi – Travel north to Assisi and begin your tour at St. Mary of the Angels Basilica, where St. Francis spent most of his life. See the Chapel of the Porziuncola, the rose bush, and the cave where the saint prayed. Later, have time at the Church of St. Clare, who founded the Order of Poor Clares and followed the teachings of St. Francis by living a life of poverty and humility. Kneel before the crucifix from which Jesus spoke to St. Francis, asking him to rebuild his church. Join a local expert for a fascinating tour of Assisi highlighting the huge 13th – century basilica where you can see many of St. Francis’ possessions and series of frescoes depicting his life. Celebrate Mass in the Basilica of St. Francis this afternoon. Back to the hotel for dinner, **included**.

Day 4: Breakfast **included**. Assisi – Optional Florence Excursion – Enjoy a full day at leisure to independently explore historic Assisi. Or, join a full day optional excursion to Florence, the “Renaissance City,” where a local expert provides a leisurely paced walking tour featuring the Piazza del Duomo, the Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore – one of the largest of the Christian world, and the Baptistery doors. You also view the Palazzo Vecchio and the Ponte Vecchio. Enjoy several hours at leisure in Florence before returning to Assisi. Dinner **included** at the hotel.

Day 5: Breakfast **included**. Assisi – Loreto – San Giovanni Rotondo. Travel across the Apennine Mountains toward the Adriatic Coast to the Marian shrine of Loreto. Discover the Holy House of Nazareth and the beautiful Madonna of Loreto where more than 50 popes have made a pilgrimage. You will celebrate Mass before continuing your journey to San Giovanni Rotondo, home of Padre Pio. Dinner **included** at the hotel.

Day 6: Breakfast **included**. San Giovanni Rotondo- Monte Sant’ Angelo – San Giovanni Rotondo. Begin your day with a special visit to Monte Sant’ Angelo. Take in a breathtaking view of the Gargano Peninsula and explore one of the most celebrated shrines of early Christianity – the Grotto of St. Michael the Archangel. Many popes and saints have knelt and prayed at this grotto, seeking the protection of Saint Michael. Later return to San Giovanni Rotondo and celebrate Mass in the sanctuary of Padre Pio. This is followed by a tour of the sanctuary, including the old church of the crucifix from which he received the stigmata in 1918, as well as Padre Pio’s tomb. Then, visit the new church dedicated in 2004 to Saint Pio of Pietrelcina. You will also see the confessional where Padre Pio spent any hours directing pilgrims on their journey toward God. Evening dinner at the hotel, **included**.

Day 7: Breakfast **included**. San Giovanni Rotondo – Abbey of Santissima Trinita – Campania. Journey through the picturesque landscape of the regions of Apulia and Campania to Cava de Tirreni. Be introduced to the Benedictine Abbey of Santissima Trinita founded in the 11th century by a local saint. After a guided visit to the abbey you will have the option of celebrating Mass. Restaurant dinner **included**.

Day 8: Breakfast **included**. Campania – Madonna del Rosario Sanctuary – Abbey of Montecassino – Rome. Continue your travels to the town of Pompeii where you will visit the Madonna del Rosario Sanctuary, one of the most famous shrines of Christianity. Later travel to Montecassino to discover the renowned abbey founded by St. Benedict in the 6th century A.D. This sacred place houses the relics of St. Benedict and his sister, Saint Scholastica. Montecassino also became famous during the battles that took place here during World War II, when the abbey was bombed and destroyed. End your day in Rome with dinner at the hotel, **included**.

Day 9: Breakfast **included**. Rome – Papal Audience – Vatican Museum. This morning, attend the weekly papal audience at Vatican City to receive the blessing given by His Holiness, Pope Francis. Later, visit the Vatican Museum where you will view such historical treasures as the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo's restored mural of the Last Judgement. Then it's on to the breathtaking St. Peter's Basilica, built on the site where St. Peter was martyred. Known as the grandest of the world's churches, St. Peter's is unsurpassed in beauty. Dinner at the hotel, **included**.

Day 10: Breakfast **included**. Rome – Christian Rome City Tour. Begin your day at the Basilica St. Paul Outside the Walls; the remains of St. Paul are located under the main altar. You will celebrate Mass before making your way to the catacombs where early Christians fearing persecution hid and buried their dead. Continue on to visit the other major Roman basilicas, St. Mary Major and St. John in Lateran, the former residence of the popes prior to their return to Rome in 1377. This evening, join your fellow travelers for a farewell dinner **included**, celebrating the end of the memorable pilgrimage to Italy.

Day 11: Breakfast **included**. Rome – Tour ends.

This is considered a spiritual tour.