

Italy and the Life of St. Francis

An 11-Day Tour to Italy

Suggested Tour #3 (9 nights/11 days)

Day 1

Depart via scheduled air service. The destination is Rome, Italy

Day 2

Rome

(D)

Arrive in Rome

Meet your Faith Journeys Tour Manager who will assist the group to the awaiting chartered motorcoach for a transfer to the hotel for check-in

Afternoon at leisure for relaxation, sightseeing, shopping, or other activities

Evening Welcome Dinner and overnight

Day 3

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

This morning we will visit Vatican City to attend an Audience with the Pope (if available and desired), then tour the Vatican Museums, which house what can be described as the most important collections of art in the world, including the Sistine Chapel

Lunch, on own

Visit St. Peter's Basilica. Marvel at Bernini's beautiful bronze canopy and Michaelangelo's Blessed Mother, known as the Pieta

Participate in a special guided tour of the necropolis of the Vatican, on a Scavi Tour.

Following your tour of the Vatican, visit St. Paul's within the Walls, also known as the American Church in Rome, a church of the Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe. It was the first protestant church built in Rome

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 4

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Our day begins with a visit to the Basilica of St. Mary Major. Next, we'll visit the Basilica of St. John Lateran, which is the oldest of the major basilicas and ranks first as the actual "parish church" of the Pope. This is the place where St. Francis met with Pope Innocent III to receive informal permission to establish the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans). Here we will also learn about the Scala Sancta (Holy Stairs). Tradition has it that these steps are sanctified by the footsteps of Jesus Christ during his Passion

Lunch, on own

Next, we will see the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls which was founded by Roman Emperor Constantine I over the burial place of Saint Paul. Other sites we will see are the Appian Way, the Baths of Caracalla, the Arch of Drusus, and the ancient catacombs of Rome

Evening dinner and overnight

Day 5

Rome

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Today, we continue on our tour of Rome's Basilicas, with a visit to the Minor Basilica, St. Peter in Chains, home of Michelangelo's famous statue of Moses.

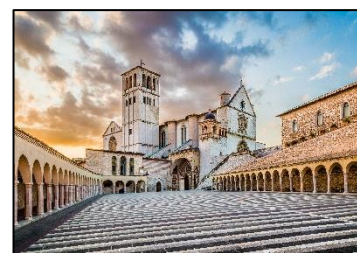


We'll then walk the short distance to the Colosseum for a tour of this world-famous landmark.

Lunch, on own

In the afternoon, visit Santa Maria sopra Minerva, the first Christian church in Rome to be built over the site of a former Greco-Roman Temple, and the burial place of St. Catherine of Siena.

The remainder of the afternoon will be free for personal exploration of the city. A coach drop-off will be arranged for those wishing to visit the Capuchin Crypts, or other nearby attractions (self-arranged). Evening dinner and overnight in Rome



Day 6

Assisi

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Today we will leave Rome for an excursion to Assisi, the birthplace and home of St. Francis, our patron saint who founded the Franciscan order and is remembered as a great lover of nature. We will explore the huge 13th-century Basilica of St. Francis, which contains many possessions of St. Francis. His tomb, located here, is a frequent pilgrimage site.

Lunch, on own

Visit the Santa Maria Maggiore, the earliest extant church in Assisi (where St. Francis famously confronted his father and relinquished his earthly wealth) as well as the Basilica of Santa Chiara (St. Clare), where St. Clare who founded the Order of Poor Clares, followed in the humble ways of St. Francis. This is also where the original San Damiano crucifix is housed, in front of which St. Francis prayed and heard God commission him to rebuild the church. We end our tour visiting the tombs of St. Francis and St. Clare

The final stop of the day will be at Chiesa Nuova, the church built on what tradition holds is the site of Francis's birth home. The location is marked by a chapel known as San Francesco Piccolino ("Little Saint Francis")

Dinner and overnight in Assisi

Day 7

Assisi

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Attend Sunday morning worship at San Leonardo – Anglican (11 am)

Lunch, on own

In the afternoon, visit Cathedral San Rufino, the church in which St. Francis and St. Clare were both baptized; San Damiano, the place where Francis first heard his commission by God; and the Basilica of Saint Mary of the Angels (Santa Maria degli Angeli), Francis's favorite church, and the place where he ultimately died

The remainder of the afternoon is free

Evening dinner and overnight in Assisi



Day 8

Florence

(B,D)

Breakfast at the hotel

Check out of Assisi hotel and travel the 2+ hours to Florence.

Upon arrival, tour the "Cradle of Renaissance" allowing us to see many unforgettable sights such as the domed cathedral, Santa Maria del Fiore, the Ponte Vecchio, Piazza della Signoria, Giotto's Bell Tower, the bronze "Gate of Paradise", and the Academy of Fine Arts which contains masterpieces from iconic Italian artists including Michelangelo's David

Lunch, on own

Afternoon at leisure for exploration, shopping, or other activities



Day 9**Venice****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel
 Travel to Venice and transport into the city via boat
 Visit sites in and around the Piazza San Marco including the Doge's Palace, home to the political leader of the Republic of Venice
 Lunch, on own
 In the afternoon, visit San Francesco del Deserto, an island near Burano, where St. Francis stayed on retreat, now home to a Franciscan Monastery and church
 Check into your hotel and enjoy a free evening in Venice
 Dinner and overnight

**Day 10****Venice****(B,D)**

Breakfast at the hotel
 This morning we will be treated to an inspiring tour of Venice, including a visit to the Basilica of St. Mark, which is architecturally a Byzantine wonder covered in golden mosaics and art treasures
 Lunch, on own
 Enjoy the afternoon at leisure for exploration, shopping, or other activities
 Evening dinner and overnight

**Day 11****Depart for home****(B)**

Breakfast at the hotel
 Transfer to Venice airport for return flight



This is a very flexible itinerary. Except for confirmed appointments, the places of interest and the sequence of sightseeing might be changed if necessary or desirable

[© Faith Journeys](#)

