

CATHOLIC SHRINES ITALY

FR. RYAN NGUYEN

JUNE 17 - JULY 2, 2024

Rome Sorrento Pompeii San Giovanni Rotondo Monte Sant' Angelo
Lanciano Loreto Assisi Siena Florence Pisa Padua Milano



ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE

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Pilgrimage Itinerary
June 17 - July 2, 2024

Rome Montecassino San Giovanni Rotondo Monte San't Angelo Lanciano
Loreto Assisi Siena Florncce Pisa Padua Montechiarri Milan

Day 1 - Departure, June 17, 2024 Monday

Depart from your gateway airport/city, an intercontinental flight to Europe, and your final destination is **Rome, Italy**.

Day 2 - Arrival to Rome, June 18, 2024 Tuesday

We will arrive at the Rome airport; you will meet with a Blue Heart Travel tour escort, and your **Christian tour of Rome** can begin. First, on our schedule, today is the **Holy Mass at St. Mary Major Basilica** and the visit of **St. John Lateran**. This is the Cathedral of Rome and was Papal residence from the 5C until the papacy departed to Avignon in France. Today we will also see the nearby **Holy Staircase (Scala Sancta)** actual stairs that Jesus Christ walked on the day he went to Pilate. We will end our day at the hotel, dinner, and overnight.



Spiritual director
&
Pilgrimage coordinator:

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Day 3 - Audience at St. Peter's & Christian Rome, June 19, 2024

Today we have an early breakfast to be on time for **the general audience with Pope Francis at St. Peter's Square**. Today we will tour Rome and first go to the **Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls** and then to the **Domitila Catacombs**. After some free time in the late afternoon for shopping, we end our day in our hotel with dinner.

Day 4 - Vatican Museums & Historic Rome, June 20, 2024, Thursday

In the morning, we are back to the Vatican, this time at the Vatican Museums. We will walk through the Halls with art from the Greek and Roman times until modern times, walk through the Gallery of the Geographical Map, the **Sistine Chapel** with the magnificent fresco of **The Last Judgment**, and so much more... On the same day is our visit to the heart of the Vatican State, **St. Peter's Basilica**, and underground burial stones with the tomb of **St. Peter and Saint John Paul II** tomb chapel and end at the Square. As the second part of our today's tour, we will be enjoying a panoramic bus tour of the **Coliseum & Imperial forums (Caesar, Augustus, and Trajan), via Piazza Venezia, with King Victor Emanuel II monument and then a walking part of the tour from Piazza di Spagna, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, and Piazza Navona** - truly the best of Rome!. Our entire day will for sure be inspirational and educational. Return to our hotel for a third overnight in Rome.

Day 5 - Rome - Sorrento, June 21, 2024

We will leave this morning for the famous and most popular tourist destination south of Rome **to Sorrento!** After breakfast, we leave for one of the churches in Rome to celebrate **Holy Mass** and then continue south, **Sorrento**. Enjoy a free afternoon on the coats of Sorrento. Dinner and overnight are in our hotel in Sorrento.



Day 6 - Sorrento - Pompeii visit - San Giovanni Rotondo, June 22, 2024

After breakfast, we leave for Naples, for a visit to Our Lady of Pompeii Shrine and Pompeii archeological site. After lunch break here, we will continue our pilgrimage to **San Giovanni Rotondo!** It is here at the church of Our Lady of Grace where we learn about Saint Padre Pio. Dinner and overnight are in San Giovanni Rotondo.

Day 7 - Saint Padre Pio - Monte San't Angelo, June 23, 2024

After breakfast, we will spend the morning in the **sanctuary of St. Pio** in San Giovanni Rotondo, walk to the church of Our Lady of Grace, celebrate the mass, and visit the tomb of St. Pio. After sightseeing of the Shrine of St. Padre Pio, we are on the way to **Monte Sant' Angelo** to visit **the Grotto, where Michael Archangel appeared** on a few occasions from the 5th to 17th century. Return to our hotel, dinner, and overnight in San Giovanni Rotondo.

God has a Face.
God has a Name.
In Christ,
God was made flesh
and gave himself
to us
in the mystery
of the
Most Holy Eucharist.

Benedict XVI

Day 8 - San Giovanni Rotondo - Lanciano - Loreto, June 24, 2024

This morning we will leave Saint Pio, and head northwest, to **Lanciano**, to **the great Eucharistic Shrine** from the 8th century. Time for prayer in the church before the relic above the main altar. Lunch break, and we will continue to **Loreto**. Loreto is a beautiful little town where a church **dedicated to Saint Mary** was built in the **14th century**. Legend says that the House of the Holy Family was miraculously transferred from Nazareth, while the Crusaders brought some parts here. "The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and She Conceived of the Holy Spirit" - words that in Loreto in the House of the Holy Family touch us even more profoundly. Tonight we will **stay in Loreto or the area for the night**.

Day 9 - Loreto - Assisi, St. Francis & St. Clare, June 25, 2024, Tuesday

After the visit and **Holy Mass in the Basilica of Loreto**, sometime after the lunch break, we will drive to the **Assisi to the Town of Peace**, an encounter with **St. Francis and St. Claire**. The group will have free time to visit the crypt of the St. Francis tomb and see the reliquary, and **frescoes made by Giotto and Cimabue**. The early part of the evening is free until dinner in our hotel.



Day 10 - Assisi, June 26, 2024, Wednesday

This morning, we will continue exploring and learning about **St. Francis and his life**. Our guided tour will start at the **church of Santa Chiara** to see **The Cross that spoke to St. Francis** and pray his prayer before the same Crucifix. We will learn more about **St. Claire, the founder of Poor Claire's**, and see her incorrupt body. We will go down to the "**Porziuncola**", one of three restored churches by young Francis that nowadays is embraced by the **Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels**. Today private Holy Mass for the group is in the Basilica of St. Francis. Dinner and overnight are at our hotel in Assisi.

Day 11 - Assisi - Siena, St. Catherine - Florence, June 27, 2024, Thursday

Today we leave Assisi for Florence via **Siena**. We will walk through the well-preserved **city of Siena, the birthplace of St. Catherine, Virgin, and Doctor of the Church**; we will stroll through the streets from the church hosting the relics of St. Catherine to the **Piazza del Campo**! In Florence, we will arrive in the late afternoon. Tonight we are in Florence or the area for dinner and overnight.



Pilgrim & Pilgrimage

Old French pelegrin,
from Latin peregrinus:
foreigner

One who travels to a holy
place to obtain some
spiritual benefit, and the
trip itself; the purpose of
the pilgrimage may be to
venerate a sacred object or
religious relic, to be in a
presence of a holy person,
to do penance, or to offer
thanksgiving in return for
graces received

(cf . Jgs 21:2,1 Sm 1:3)

Day 12 - Florence, June 28, 2024, Friday

This morning we are in Florence for a walking city tour. A guided tour will include the Franciscan church of "**Santa Croce**" with a beautiful facade. This church of huge interior is a burial place of 280 nobles, among which are notables such as **Michelangelo, Galileo Galilei, Machiavelli, Rossini**, and others. We will pass by the National Museum before reaching the heart of the city – "**Piazza Signoria**" - with its most important buildings, such as the Old Palace or Palazzo Vecchio, the Uffizi Gallery, and the "**Ponte Vecchio**". We will continue our walk through "Piazza della Repubblica" to the **Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore, Giotto's Bell Tower** and **St. John's Baptistery** at "Piazza del Duomo". Free afternoon for shopping and lunch in Florence. Our second night at the hotel!

Day 13 - Florence - Pisa - Padua June 29, 2024, Saturday

Today, we leave Florence and **head to Pisa!** In Pisa, we are for a few hours, including a visit, free time, Holy Mass, and time for lunch before we continue to Padua! In Pisa, we will be exploring the **Piazza dei Miracoli**, where the **Leaning Tower, Cathedral, and Baptistery** are located. For lunch break, look for **trattorias** for local specialties, such as "ribollita" (a Tuscan soup), bread and tomato soup, or cecina (a type of chickpea flour pancake). We continue to **Padua**, about 4 - 5 hours drive. Tonight, we are in Padua for dinner and overnight.

Day 14 - Padua - Rosa Mystica /Montchiari - Milan, June 30, 2024, Sunday

After the morning Holy Mass and the visit to the Basilica of **St. Anthony of Padua**, we will leave for **Milan**.

On the way to Milan, we will make a stop at the little Holy **Shrine of Rosa Mystica**, by the city of Montechiari!

The same evening we are in the city of St. Ambrose! Check in to our hotel in Milan, dinner and overnight!

Day 15 - Milan, July 1, 2024, Monday

After an easy morning, we will head to the city center of Milan, Holy Mass first, and then our guided tour and visit to Milan can start!

We will visit the Romanesque-style **Basilica of Saint Ambrose**, the **Sforza palace** with the fortress towers built by **Leonardo da Vinci**, the seat of the **Dukes of Milan**, then a nice walk to **Il Duomo, the Cathedral of Milan**, a 357 feet (108 meters) high church with 3600 statues of different dimensions, which construction started in 1386. On our walk through the center, we'll see the famous **Opera House "Scala"**, a monument of **Leonardo da Vinci**, and also **Galleria Vittorio Emanuele**.

In the afternoon, some free time for shopping in one of the world capitals of fashion. Our farewell dinner is in one of the typical Italian restaurants.

Last night in Italy - have a safe and sound flight back home!

Day 16 - Milan - Malpensa International Airport, July 2, 2024, Tuesday

Early morning departure for Malpensa International Milano Airport, flight back home!

**"Therefore, my dear
brothers and sisters,
stand firm.**

Let nothing move you.

**Always
give yourselves fully to
the work of the Lord,
because you know that
your labor in the Lord is
not in vain."**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

Have a blessed pilgrimage to the Catholic Shrines of Italy!

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TOUR INCLUDES:

- Airline Tickets Philadelphia - Rome; Milan - Philadelphia
- 14 nights in 4* first-class hotels, June 18 - July 1, 2024
- Dinner and breakfast daily, drink per person included (glass of wine & water)
- Escort tour guide from Rome to Milan
- Guided tours of Rome, Pompeii, Assisi, Siena, Padua, Loreto, Pisa, Florence & Milan
- High-class tourist coach from Rome to Milan
- Entrance fees to:
 - Vatican Museums
 - Domitila Catacombs
 - St. Peter's Basilica
 - Pompeii entrance fees
 - Santa Croce, Florence
 - Assisi Basilica and headsets
- Headset, whispers for visits & city tours
- Daily Holy Mass with the priest with the group
- Tickets for the General Audience with Pope Francis (always free of charge)
- Dinner out in a restaurant in Rome, "Italian canzone & wine" served
- Farewell dinner in Milano, drinks included

NOT INCLUDED:

- Lunch daily
- Tips for guides, escorts, and drivers
- Porterage of luggage, in & out of hotels
- Travel Insurance - recommended
- Personal items, visa costs

RATES:

Price per person in double or twin room:.....US\$ 0.00
Single-room supplement - limited number:US\$ 895.00
Triple room - reduction per person:US\$ 95.00

**For more information
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