

Marian Shrines in Italy: From the North to the South 2021

Milano, Caravaggio, Torino, Oropa, Bologna, Loreto, Roma, Pompei



Day 1 Welcome to Italy -Milano

Upon arrival at Milan Airport, we will be greeted by our English speaking tour manager who will be with the group during the entire stay in Italy. We will board the private deluxe bus and transfer to our hotel. Following check-in, we will have free time to unpack and relax. If possible, we will celebrate Mass in a local church. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Milan (D)

Day 2 Milano - Caravaggio - Milano

This morning we will drive to the town of Caravaggio to visit the Sanctuary of St Maria del Fonte which was built in the very same place where the Virgin appeared to a young woman in 1432, as a gush of clean water simultaneously began to pour out of the ground. Celebrate Mass. In the afternoon we will have a panoramic city tour of Milan including the Duomo with its Square, Galleria Vittorio Emanuele, La Scala Opera House and Castello Sforzesco. Return to our hotel for dinner and overnight (B,D)

Day 3 Torino

After breakfast and check out, we will drive to Turin capital of the Piedmont region and home of the famous Shroud of Turin. Although the shroud is not being shown, we will visit the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist where the Shroud is kept and where Blessed Giorgio Frassati is buried. Following lunch visit the Sanctuary of Maria Ausiliatrice, The Basilica of Our Lady Help of Christians, completed in 1868. This church in Turin was originally part of a home for poor boys founded by Saint John Bosco, which now contains his Tomb with the relics of St Dominic Savio and other saints. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Turin (B, D)

Day 4 Walking day: from the Sanctuary of Graglia to Oropa (10,5 miles) - CHALLENGING

In the morning we will drive to the Sanctuary of Graglia located in the airy and picturesque Valle Elvo in a place surrounded by woods. It houses a wooden statue of the Madonna Lauretana and for this reason it's a focal point of an intense devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. From her we will start our walk to the Sanctuary of Oropa, the most important and largest Sanctuary dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the Alps. It is located in a unique, natural and unspoilt setting at 1200 mt. Celebrate Mass. In the afternoon, return to Turin to relax. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)



Day 5 Torino - Bologna

After breakfast, we will drive to Bologna across the Padana plane and we will discover this medieval city with its towers, porticos and palaces. We will visit the Basilica of Saint Dominic with its tomb, the Seven Churches monastic complex and the Basilica of Saint Petronio. In the afternoon we will walk to the Sanctuary of Blessed Virgin of Saint Luke, on top of the city, connected with down town by the longest arcades in the world (3 miles). Celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight at our hotel (B, D)

Day 6 Bologna - Loreto

Following breakfast, we will continue our drive to the Shrine of Holy House in Loreto to visit the house of the Virgin Mary, that according to the ancient tradition arrived from the Holy Land. This precious relic was brought to Italy

after the fall of the kingdom of the Crusaders in the Holy Land. The shrine of Loreto has been for centuries and is still one of the places of pilgrimage of great importance to the Catholic world. Celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight in Loreto (B, D)

Day 7 Loreto - Rome

Today, in the morning, we will drive to Rome. Upon arrival we will have a tour of the major Basilicas such as St John in Lateran, the Holy Stairs and St Mary Major. This last basilica is one of the oldest and most important shrines in the world dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The basilica contains some of the finest artwork and architectural wonders in the world such as the ceiling which is a masterpiece of the Renaissance and the work of Giuliano da Sangallo. It contains also the painting of the Blessed Mother known as the Salus Populi Romani. Finally we will celebrate Mass. Dinner and overnight at our hotel in Rome (B, D)

Day 8 Vatican Museums - Sanctuary of Divine Love - Castel Gandolfo

After breakfast, we will start our tour with a visit of Vatican Museums where we will see the magnificent rooms painted by Raphael as well as the Sistine Chapel, followed by a tour of the Basilica of St Peter. Following lunch, we will visit the Marian Sanctuary of Divine Love. Then we will reach Castel Gandolfo to enjoy a dinner in a local restaurant. Overnight in Rome (B, Special dinner)

Day 9 Papal Audience

Free afternoon This morning, we will return to the Vatican City to attend the Papal Audience in St Peter's Square with Pope Francis. Free afternoon for shopping or to discover the other beautiful monuments of the Eternal City. Tonight dinner is at leisure. Overnight in Rome. (B)

Day 10 Rome - Pompeii - Rome

Today we will depart early to reach Pompeii the city which was buried by the ashes of Mt. Vesuvius in 79 AD. We will walk through one of the most important and interesting archeological museums in the world. After lunch, we will visit the Shrine of the Rosary of Pompeii "La Madonna Del Rosario". The painting of "Our Lady of the Rosary" with its bronze gilt frame is presented to the pilgrims on the high altar. This painting depicts the Virgin Mary and Child Jesus presenting the Rosary to Saint Dominic and Saint Catherine of Siena. Celebrate Mass. Return to Rome for dinner and overnight (B, D)

Day 11 Departure

After an early breakfast, we will leave by motor coach and transfer to Rome airport for return flights home. (B)

This is a suggested itinerary:

We will be glad to customize a program that meets your specific needs, requirements and budget. You may also choose your own travel dates and city of departure.

For information on our Fund Raising Program and benefits for your group please email: anton@travelwithus.com